United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Seventeenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 923rd MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 21 October 1977, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. KLEPPE (Iceland)

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Examination of the world trade and economic situation and consideration of issues, policies and appropriate measures to facilitate structural changes in the international economy, taking into account the interrelationships of problems in the areas of trade, development, money and finance with a view to attaining the establishment of a new international economic order and bearing in mind the current evolution and may be needed in the rules and principles governing international economic relations and UNCTAD's necessary contribution to a New international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (continued)

Assessment of the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order (General Assembly resolution 33/193) (continued)

Contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the new international development strategy (General Assembly resolution 33/193) (continued)

Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system (continued)

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GE.77-54904

Other particular matters in the field of trade and development (continued)

(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twelfth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

(c) Trade and economic aspects of disarmament (continued)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (continued)

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (continued)

(a) Declaration of intersessional bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure

Other business

(a) Reconciliation of activities in the regional commissions

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (continued)

(b) Review of the requirement for summary records of meetings at the Board

Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems and trade flows resulting therefrom

Technical Committee II

OTHER PARTICULAR MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 9) (continued):

(b) PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE: TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL) (TD/B/760 - A/34/17)

9. Mr. BORISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the Board that the question had been included in the agenda at the request of his delegation. At its twelfth session, UNCITRAL had considered several questions which directly concerned the activities of UNCTAD, in particular the legal implications of the new international economic order. During the discussions, two different approaches to the problem had emerged. According to the first, with its country shared, the Commission should give priority attention to such questions of relations between States - where such relationships were connected with international trade - as the principle of non-discrimination, the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment and the democratic and equitable basis of such relationships in counterweight to the policies of hegemonism and the subordination of other States. His Government considered that UNCITRAL's programme of work with regard to the new international economic order should be a flexible one, so that it could be modified, where required, to take into account the activities of other international organizations, in particular of the United Nations system.

10. The other approach, a purely formal one in his view, was that the Commission should not touch upon the question of relations between States. His delegation underlined the importance of the most-favoured-nation principle in international trade relations, which had been recommended at the first session of the Conference and set forth in its Final Act as the General Principle Eight. The most-favoured-nation clause appeared in most trade treaties and agreements between States, especially between States having different economic and social systems. In spite of the general recognition of most-favoured-nation treatment as a universal principle in international economic relations, in the foreign trade policy of a number of developed market-economy countries there were deviations from the generally recognized norm which brought about an element of discrimination. These trends were not to be bypassed by UNCTAD since they touched upon the interests of all States participating in international trade.

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should take note of the report of UNCITRAL on its twelfth session and the comments made thereon.

12. It was so decided.

(c) TRADE AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT (continued)

13. Mr. BORISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the arms race was continuing and becoming a still more dangerous phenomenon, though during recent years very important agreements providing for the limitation of armaments had been concluded. The arms race absorbed unprecedently large financial, material and

intellectual resources and meant a heavy burden for peoples of many countries, including developing countries. It stimulated inflation in capitalist States, led to tax increases and worsened the living standards of broad masses of the population. The increase of military expenditures negatively affected all sides of the social and economic development of nations. The arms race was inconsistent with the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis. It negatively affected international exchanges of commodities and technology, and contributed to imbalances in the international monetary system. The arms race, as had been underlined in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament and in the Declaration of the recent Conference of Non-Aligned Countries at Havana, threatened to cause the failure of all efforts aimed at social and economic development; it could become an obstacle to the establishment of the New International Economic Order and to the solution of other important tasks confronting humanity.

14. A halt to the arms race, and measures aimed at disarmament, the transfer of large resources from military production to peaceful purposes, would undoubtedly create favourable conditions, not only for strengthening peace and international security, but also for increasing the rate of social and economic development of all nations, particularly developing countries, and for solving problems of the radical restructuring of international economic relations and the expansion of all flows of world trade.

15. The USSR and the other socialist countries were making persistent and intensive efforts to ensure the adoption of concrete disarmament measures. They were the only ones to have taken so many initiatives and made so many constructive proposals. The Soviet Union itself had proved its unfailing attachment to the ideals of peace and its firm intent to put an end to the arms race by announcing, on the thirtieth anniversary of the German Democratic Republic, a unilateral reduction in Soviet military personnel and equipment stationed in Central Europe.

16. It was also on the initiative of the USSR that the question of the trade and economic aspects of disarmament had become an item for study and discussion in various United Nations bodies. He noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had prepared a number of well-grounded reports showing that the execution of measures to stop the arms race and to start disarmament would favourably influence social and economic development and international economic relations. It was his conviction that UNCTAD was able to make a valuable contribution to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, especially when it considered the trade and development aspects of the problem of disarmament, and to perform its own research study on the influence of disarmament on world trade and development. UNCTAD, as a very important body of the United Nations Organization, should pay due attention to the trade and development aspects of disarmament with a view to stimulating the implementation of the United Nations resolutions aimed at halting the arms race and the Board should continue to give due consideration to that actual and important problem.

49. Mr. POSKREBY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question had been under discussion for many years but centralization had made little progress, whereas the activities of the commissions with respect to commercial, economic, scientific and technical co-operation were constantly increasing. The Soviet Union had always strongly supported the idea of decentralization because it considered that it was at the regional and subregional levels that the problems of co-operation, especially among developing countries, could be most effectively dealt with. Experience over the past few years had shown the importance of regional co-operation among the countries of a given region and their contribution to the development of international economic relations. Efforts must be intensified as the world political climate would not fail to strengthen that trend. The Board and all United Nations bodies should make a specific study of proposals in accordance with guidelines laid down by the General Assembly. The regional commissions must be enabled fully to assume their role as the principal centres for economic co-operation and development in their regions and the executive heads for development projects, at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, in accordance with the work plans within the fairview of the specialized agencies and other organizations involved. UNCTAD had a global role, the commissions had a regional role and the two commissions should co-operate with each other. Resources and staff should be transferred from central United Nations organs to the commissions without increasing the burden on the United Nations budget.

50. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should take note of the report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on decentralization of activities of the regional commissions and of the comments made thereon.

51. It was so decided.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (continued)

(c) REVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR SUMMARY RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

52. The PRESIDENT said that, after consulting the co-ordinators of the regional groups, he suggested that the Board, having examined the question of summary records of its plenary meetings, should decide to retain them at its future sessions.

53. Mr. KHLESTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) speaking on behalf of Group D, said that the reports prepared at the end of the work of the session were of excellent quality and contained a great deal of information, thus making summary records superfluous. Group D would have liked the Board to decide on an experimental basis to do without summary records for a certain time. However, if the majority of the Board wished to maintain the status quo, Group D would accept that decision.

54. The President's suggestion was adopted.

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Nineteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 524th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 18 October 1979, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. HEGLAND (Norway)

CONTENTS

Procedural matters (continued):

(a) Adoption of the report on credentials

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (continued):

(c) Revision of the rules of procedure of the Board and of its main Committees

(e) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of rule 77 of the rules of procedure

Other business (continued)

(a) Special Programme on Trade Facilitation

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GE.79-55061

The meeting was called to order at 7.20 p.m.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 4) (continued)

(a) Adoption of the report on credentials (TD/B/760)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that the Bureau had examined the credentials of representatives attending the nineteenth session and had found them in order. He invited the Board to adopt the report of the Bureau (TD/B/760).

2. It was so decided.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 11) (continued)

(a) Revision of the rules of procedure of the Board and of its main Committees

3. The PRESIDENT said that, consequent upon the amendment made by the General Assembly to its resolution 1995 (XIX), paragraph 1(f) of section II, rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the Board would have to be amended to read: "The Trade and Development Board shall normally hold two regular sessions a year". Consultations had been held among the regional groups concerning the consequential amendments which might have to be made to the rules for the election of officers. Under rule 81, the rules referred to in rule 70 could not be amended until the Board had received a report from a working party established for that purpose. However, under rule 82, the Board might suspend rule 81 which, if there was no objection, could be done without the 24 hours' notice provided for in rule 82.

4. He therefore suggested that the secretariat should prepare the texts of the amendments to be made to rule 11 on the election of officers, in the light of consultations which had been held, and of the consequent amendments to rule 19 and annex I on the system of rotation among the groups for the election of the President and Rapporteur of the Board. The draft text would be submitted to the Board at its next plenary meeting.

5. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said he hoped that the amendments to be submitted by the secretariat would also contain the following provisions: (a) the officers elected for one regular session would remain in office only for that session and until the election of the officers for the following regular session; (b) for any special session of the Board, it would be understood that the officers would be those of the preceding regular session; and (c) the amendments to the rules of procedure should in no case alter the rotation among the groups; their effect would simply be to accelerate the rate of rotation since, in lieu of an annual cycle, there would in future be a six-months' cycle between one session and the next.

(c) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure (TD/B/761).

6. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat had received applications from eight non-governmental organizations for designation under rule 77 of the rules of procedure and that, in accordance with established practice, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had consulted the Bureau on those applications. The Bureau had concurred with the

recommendations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (TD/...). The organizations concerned were: General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries ("General" category); International Association of Agricultural Economists ("General" category); Central American Shipowners' Association ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping); Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies ("Special" category, Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade and Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries); Federation of Commodity Associations ("Special" category, Committee on Commodities); International Association of Independent Tanker Owners ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping); International Organization of Consumers' Unions ("Special" category, Committee on Manufactures, and Committee on the Transfer of Technology); Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping).

7. He took it that the Board wished to reclassify those organizations for the purposes of rule 79 of the rules of procedure and, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Board decision 45 (VII) to classify them as recommended in the annex to the secretariat's note.

8. It was so decided.

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to take action on the application for reclassification to the "General" category received from the International Union of Marine Insurance, currently in the "Special" category. The Union, which has an interest in the work of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade and the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, was also interested in the work of a subsidiary body of the Committee on Shipping. Since it was thus concerned with matters falling within the terms of reference of more than two committees, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had recommended to the Bureau that it should be reclassified from the "Special" to the "General" category, in the list provided for in rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Board and in accordance with paragraph 1(a) of decision 45 (VII). Since the Bureau of the Board had concurred with that recommendation, he proposed that the International Union of Marine Insurance should be reclassified from the "Special" to the "General" category.

10. It was so decided.

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 14) (continued):

(a) Special Programme on Trade Facilitation

11. The PRESIDENT read out a draft decision which had been approved by the co-ordinators of the regional groups.

12. The draft decision was adopted.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Nineteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 595th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 19 October 1979, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. HARRIS (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

Procedural matters (continued)

(a) Provisional agenda for the twentieth regular session of the Board and for the eleventh special session and organization of work of the sessions

(c) Establishment of the Working Party on the UNCTAD medium-term plan and programme budget

Evaluation of the world trade and economic situation and consideration of issues, policies and appropriate measures to facilitate structural changes in the international economy, taking into account the interrelationships of problems in the area of trade, development, money and finance with a view to attaining the establishment of a new international economic order and bearing in mind the further evolution that may be needed in the rules and principles governing international economic relations and UNCTAD's necessary contribution to a New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (continued)

Assessment of the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order (General Assembly resolution 33/193) (continued)

Contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the new international development strategy (General Assembly resolution 33/193) (continued)

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Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system (continued)

Specific matters arising from the resolutions, recommendations and other decisions adopted by the Conference at its fifth session requiring attention or action by the Board at its nineteenth session (continued)

Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies (continued):

(a) Commodity trade (continued)

(b) Financing related to trade (continued)

(c) Shipping (continued)

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (continued):

(e) Revision of the rules of procedure of the Board and of its main Committees (continued)

(f) Documentation problems and their effect on the work programme of UNCTAD (continued)

(h) Review of the calendar of meetings

(i) Financial implications of the actions of the Board

Adoption of the report of the Board to the General Assembly

Closure of the session

24. Mr. [illegible] (Gabon) said he regretted that a draft resolution on a very important subject was available only in English, which was not his working language and which he had difficulty in understanding.

25. Mr. LALOYE (Belgium), expressing agreement with the Japanese representative's position, said that the text of the draft resolution, the merit of which had already appeared in previous documents, had been available for at least 3 months. He failed to understand, therefore, why it had proved impossible to have it translated into the other working languages.

26. Mr. GARCIA-[illegible] (Spain), associating himself with the views expressed by previous speakers, said he regretted that the text was not available in Spanish.

27. Mr. LICHILAMA (Zambia) said that there were communication difficulties in the African Group, in which three of the United Nations working languages were used by representatives. The secretariat should make documents available in all the working languages of UNCTAD.

28. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said, with reference to the difficulties experienced by Arabic-speaking delegations, that he associated himself with the comments made by previous speakers.

29. Mr. SOLA VILA (Cuba) said that consideration of the draft resolution should be deferred until it was available in all the working languages.

30. The PRESIDENT said it was an unfortunate fact that, owing to lack of resources, the text could not be produced in all the working languages in time for consideration at the current meeting. It had however been approved by all the regional groups. He therefore appealed to the Board to finish its business at the current meeting.

31. Mrs. [illegible] (Algeria) said that the Board would have to give up its habit of finishing off its business at a night meeting without the necessary documents. She appealed to the President to request at the next session that no meetings should be held unless the documents were available in all the working languages. As representatives of their Governments, the members of the Board must fully understand the texts they were adopting.

32. Mr. GARCIA-[illegible] said that the Board's consideration of the draft resolution on the present occasion should not be taken as a precedent.

33. Mr. STEINBACHER (Administrative Service) said that the financial implications of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution TD/B/L.[illegible] would be [illegible],000, on the assumption that the high-level group would meet at Geneva in the Spring of 1970 for one and a half weeks with services in six languages and 50 pages of documentation.

34. Mr. ALULA (Ethiopia) proposed that, in the first line of operative paragraph 1, the words "to set up" should be replaced by the words "to convene".

35. The amendment was adopted.

36. Mr. [illegible] (Philippines) said he took it that, in accordance with UNCTAD's existing practice, the use of the phrase "high-level expert" would not preclude participation by a representative of ministerial rank. He felt that operative paragraphs 2 and 3 would be better interchanged, but would not press his suggestion.

43. Under agenda item 7 (a), the Committee had approved a draft resolution on the integrated programme for commodities (TD/B/L.[illegible]) and, as already mentioned, a draft resolution on tungsten (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible]). Under item 7 (b), it had approved a draft decision on the group of governmental experts on the concepts of the payment aid and flow targets (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.12) and, under item 7 (c), it had approved a draft decision on the Working Group on International Shipping Legislation (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible]).

44. The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to consider the draft decisions and resolutions submitted by Sectional Committee I.

Draft decision on ship-to- (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

45. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on item 11 (a), (c) and (d) of the agenda of the fifth session of the Conference (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

46. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on Conference resolution 111 (V) on cross-therein, the technological capacity of developing countries (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

47. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on paragraph 10 of Conference resolution 102 (V) on development aspects of the transfer of technology (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

48. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee on the Rationalization of UNCTAD's Machinery (Conference resolution 114 (V)) (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

49. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on paragraph 7 of Conference resolution 114 (V), on the Working Party on the UNCTAD medium-term plan and the programme budget (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.7)

50. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on the establishment of a multilateral guarantee facility (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible]/Rev.1)

51. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on item 16 (e) of the agenda of the fifth session of the Conference (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

52. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on paragraph 1) of Conference resolution 127 (V) regarding future meetings of governmental experts of developing countries (TD/B(XIX)/SC.1/L.10)

53. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft decision on international commodity trade (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.11)

54. The draft decision was adopted.

Draft resolution on Special Measures in favour of Least Developed Countries (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.12)

55. The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution on transfer (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.13)

56. The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution on trade expansion (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.14)

57. Mr. [illegible] (Brazil) pointed out that, in the French text, the concluding part of operative paragraph 2 should read "[illegible]", instead of "[illegible]".

58. The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution on the Integrated Programme for Commodities (TD/B/L.[illegible])

59. The draft resolution was adopted.

Adoption of the report of Sessional Committee I (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.5 and Add.1 and 2; TD/B/L.[illegible] and Add.1)

60. Mr. [illegible] (Hungary), speaking on behalf of Group D, said that, after Sessional Committee I had approved draft decision TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.9/Rev.1, his Group had entered a reservation which did not appear in the Committee's report. He requested that the following sentence should be inserted in document TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.5/Add.1 with reference to that decision: "Member countries of Group D entered their reservation contained in document TD/B/733, paragraph 39".

61. It was so agreed.

62. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the report of Sessional Committee I (TD/B/(XIX)/SC.1/L.5 and Add. 1 and 2; TD/B/L.[illegible] and Add.1), as amended, in its entirety and decide to include it as an integral part of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its nineteenth session.

63. It was so decided.

Draft decision on Conference resolution 130 (V) on multilateral trade negotiations (TD/B/L.[illegible])

64. The PRESIDENT said that he had referred Conference decision 130 (V) on multilateral trade negotiations, on which Sessional Committee I had been unable to reach agreement, to his Contact Group and it had produced a draft decision (TD/B/L.[illegible]) which, he regretted to say, was available only in English.

65. Mr. GARCIA-AMADOZ (Spain) said that he wished to place on record his delegation's disagreement with the President's decision to proceed with consideration of documents not available in all the working languages.

66. The draft decision was adopted.

67. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the decision just adopted was a purely procedural one that limited itself to endorsing Conference resolution 132 (V). He wished to refer to the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 at the fifth session of the Conference and in Sessional Committee I. By the time the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and other relevant documentation had been analysed at the Board's twentieth session, most of the decisions taken at the Tokyo Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations would have been put into effect.

68. Negotiations must be continued, as a matter of urgency, in the appropriate forum in order to ensure that the interests and rights of the developing countries, particularly the least-developed among them, were fully safeguarded and that, in accordance with the objectives of the Tokyo Declaration, progress was made towards greater liberalization of trade and the elimination of trade barriers against the exports of developing countries.

69. Mr. SIMON (Hungary), speaking on behalf of Group D, said it was the understanding of his Group that the words "global evaluation" in the decision just adopted included the possible consequences to countries not participating in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

70. Mr. MENZEL (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of Group B, said he regretted that, in spite of concerted efforts, it had not proved possible to arrive at a substantive decision on the subject. He would refer to his explanation of Group B's position in Sessional Committee I.

Draft decision on item 12(a) of the agenda of the fifth session of the Conference (TD/B/L.529)

71. The PRESIDENT said that he had referred Conference agenda item 12(a), which related to the debt problems of developing countries and on which Sessional Committee I had unfortunately been unable to reach agreement, to a small group which had produced a procedural draft decision (TD/B/L.529), available only in English.

72. In the penultimate line of the text, the phrase "together with draft resolution TD/L.196," should be inserted after the words "part B)",". If there were no objections, he would take it that the Board found the text acceptable.

73. The draft decision was adopted.

74. Mr. HAMDER (Pakistan) said that some steps had been taken as a result of the adoption of Board resolution 165 (S-IX) but its implementation to date had been inadequate and, in the interim, the debt problems of the developing countries had continued to grow. The Group of 77 had maintained a flexible negotiating position on the question during the current session in a determined attempt to reach an equitable

solution. To the regret of his delegation, no such solution had been achieved in the absence of a corresponding attitude on the part of Group B. He hoped there would be a more satisfactory outcome at the Board's twentieth session.

75. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said he associated himself with the views expressed by the representative of Pakistan. The Group of 77 had observed that some Group B delegations had been sympathetic while others had expressed reservations about policy implications and financial implications. He hoped that the inclusion of the item in the twentieth session, by giving such delegations time to consult their Governments, would make it possible to resolve some outstanding questions on the implementation of Board resolution 165 (S-IX) at next session.

76. Mr. [illegible] (Tunisia) said he was voicing the feelings of a number of members of Group A in stating that he shared the regret of the representatives of Pakistan and Bangladesh that it had not been possible to reach agreement in spite of serious negotiations by all parties.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda item 11) (continued):

(a) REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD AND OF ITS MAIN COMMITTEES (continued) (TD/B/L.542)

77. Mr. CHITEMBO (Senior Legal Liaison Officer) reminded the Board that, at its [illegible] meeting, it had decided under rule 82 of the rules of procedure to suspend rule 18 and to request the secretariat to prepare the necessary amendment of rule 18 regarding the election of officers to read:

"At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Board shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members ..."

78. That change stemmed from the fact that the General Assembly, on the recommendation of UNCTAD V, had approved an amendment to its resolution 1995 (XIX), to enable the Board to meet in regular session twice annually. The Board had further requested the secretariat to make the consequential changes in other rules and in the cycle in rule 1 of the rules of procedure concerning the rotation of the offices of President and Rapporteur, for consideration by it at its final meeting. The secretariat had taken due account of the statement made at the 523rd meeting by the representative of the Philippines.

79. From consultations with regional spokesmen, it appeared to be the general view that the suggestions made by the secretariat in document TD/B/L.542 were consistent but that more time was required to study them. A decision on the lines of that document would call for the election at the Board's twentieth session of a President from Group D and a Rapporteur from Group B.

80. It seemed desirable therefore that the Board should revert to the earlier proposal of setting up a working party of limited membership, with the traditional composition of six members from the Group of 77, three from Group B, two from Group D and China, to report to the Board during its resumed nineteenth session. The secretariat therefore hoped that the regional groups would advise on the membership of the working party.

91. Mr. [illegible] (Philippines) said that, while he had no objection to the course suggested, he wondered whether the Board could waive the rules of procedure, not [illegible] provision [illegible] to suspend the rules of procedure which required that a working party should be established [illegible] to comply strictly to those rules.

92. Mr. [illegible] (Sudan) said that there had been previous instances of the Board [illegible].

93. Mr. [illegible] (Brazil) said that, in order to [illegible] spokesman of Group D to put the question [illegible] of the lack of time for [illegible].

94. The PRESIDENT [illegible]:

"Having [illegible] six members [illegible] two members [illegible] the required nine-member [illegible] working party, the Board will [illegible]."

He said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt that draft decision.

95. It was so decided.

(f) DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF UNCTAD (continued) (TD/B/L.326)

96. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt draft resolution TD/B/L.326, which he understood had the approval of all regional groups.

97. It was so decided.

98. Mr. PANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the Group D countries and Mongolia, said that the decision just adopted by the Board could not and should not be taken as meaning that the documentation problems existing in UNCTAD were due principally or primarily to the conditions of availability of the conference servicing infrastructure of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Neither should the decision be so construed as following the spirit and the letter of resolution 114 (V); its adoption merely emphasized the need for in-depth consideration of the problem of documentation with a view to preparing concrete recommendations for improving the structure of the present machinery of UNCTAD in the course of the Conference's future work.

99. Furthermore, the decision just adopted could not and should not be interpreted as opposing the activities of UNCTAD to those being conducted in Geneva by other international bodies, in the sense of minimizing the importance of those latter activities for the member States of the United Nations.

100. Lastly, the decision could not and should not be opposed to those provisions of resolution 114 (V) which called for measures to reduce the frequency and duration of meetings of various UNCTAD bodies.

(h) REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES (TD/B/L. [illegible] and Add.1; TD/B(XIX)/CRP.3)

(i) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACTIONS OF THE BOARD (TD/B/L.63/Add.2; TD/B/C.[illegible]/131/L.13/Add.1)

71. The PRESIDENT reminded the Board that it had already taken a decision at its 512th plenary meeting regarding the resumption of the United Nations Conference from 19-30 November 1979.

72. [illegible] (Poland) drew attention to the fact that no date had been fixed for the second pre-sessional meeting on Programme [illegible]. He hoped that the secretariat would be able to take some specific proposal on the subject to the current meeting.

73. [illegible] (Director, Division for Programme Support Services), noted that in resolution 32/ [illegible], the Fifth Committee had been requested [illegible] a reduction in the number of [illegible] groups and in the duration of meetings and for the distribution of documents [illegible] in advance of meetings. At the same time, however, it had also been [illegible] and called upon the organs [illegible] to establish [illegible]. Such involved additional meeting [illegible] of existing [illegible] and provided for the convening of a large number [illegible]. That was the context in which the secretariat viewed the task of [illegible] the Board.

74. In 1978, UNCTAD had had the record number of 72 meetings, totalling 103 weeks, but at the cost of a severe delay in the preparation and distribution of documents. In the conference years of 1979 [illegible] the number of weeks of meetings would be more than double the average for previous conference years and greater than the average for non-conference years.

75. The main reason for the documentation problem was that adjustments in UNCTAD's resources had been [illegible] compared with the increased number of meetings it was required to service. It would have been ideal to have submitted a calendar of meetings for 1980 in keeping with the recommendations of Conference resolution 32/ (V), but the calendar already included 91½ weeks of meetings without making any provision for the possible resumption of the negotiating conference on the transfer of technology, restrictive business practices, multinational transport, and the Common Fund. Furthermore, the meetings had to be crowded into 39 weeks in view of the reluctance of delegations to agree to meetings during the month of August or at the turn of the year. It would therefore be necessary to hold two or more meetings simultaneously throughout the year.

76. Under those circumstances, the effect of any logistical adjustments in the secretariat on the documentation problem would be marginal, and the situation would remain unchanged, as long as [illegible] meetings. Governments automatically endorsed decisions taken independently on various items without regard to the overall calendar and the total number of meetings.

77. Turning to document TD/B(XIX)/CRP.3, he said that the main change it embodied in relation to TD/B/L.[illegible]/Add.1 was that the session of the Working Party on the Programme Budget and Medium-Term Plan, to be followed by a resumption of the nineteenth session of the Board, had been postponed from October to November. That modification had been rendered necessary by the delay in preparing the section affecting UNCTAD in the programme budget which the Secretary-General of the United Nations was to submit to the General Assembly. The Budget Division in New York had announced that the section would not be available at Geneva until early November, although UNCTAD's preliminary proposals, on which it was based, had reached New York on 17 September.

. that raised the question as to whether the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee would receive the Board's comments on the budget proposals in time to take them into consideration. The UNCTAD secretariat had consulted the spokesmen of the regional groups on that point and, in reference to their wishes, it was currently proposing a date in late November for both the meeting of the Working Party and the resumed session of the Board.

. The changed date was far from convenient, for the UNCTAD secretariat would be required to service three negotiating conferences in the same period and could therefore offer only limited facilities for the Working Party. In addition, care would have to be taken to ensure that that date would not be too late from the point of view of the work schedule of the General Assembly, and the secretariat ventured to hope that delegations in Geneva would endeavour to persuade their colleagues on the Fifth Committee to defer examination of the section of the budget affecting UNCTAD until the beginning of December. He suggested that the President of the Board might also send a letter to the same vein to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

100. Other changes in the calendar included fixing the precise date in December 1979 for the ninth session of the _Ad Hoc_ Intergovernmental Committee on the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the transfer of the preparatory meetings on economic co-operation among developing countries from 1979 to 1980. In that connection, it should be noted that, in all the versions except the French, there was a typographical error in footnote _a/_ of document TD/B/(XIX)/C.3: the dates for the preparatory meetings should read 21 January - 8 February.

101. On the proposal of Secretariat, the twelfth session of the Committee on Tungsten had been brought forward from 1981 to 1980 and the tenth session of the _Ad Hoc_ Intergovernmental Committee on the IDC and the third session of the Committee on Transfer of Technology had been added to that year's calendar.

102. The ninth session of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade had been deferred from February to April 1980. In order to give the secretariat more time for making preparations and the _ad hoc_ Intergovernmental High-level Group of Experts on the future evolution of the international monetary system had been deferred from January to March for the same reason.

103. The ninth session of the Committee on Commodities had been extended by up to four days, and the seventh session of the Working Group on International Shipping Legislation by one week.

. In view of the decision to confirm the session of the High-level Intergovernmental Working Group to prepare the draft of the contribution of UNCTAD to the new international development strategy, the square brackets should be removed.

examine the budget proposals. He suggested that, when presenting to the General Assembly the report revealing a substantive shortfall in Conference resolution 111 (V), the Secretary-General of the United Nations might refer to the desirability of UNCTAD being given increased material resources in order to solve accumulation problems.

114. Mr. ANASHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the Group B countries and Mongolia, said that the draft calendar which the Board was called upon to adopt could not fail to create concern, particularly in the light of such facts as the increased number and duration of meetings and the calendar's lack of stability, as reflected in the frequency with which it was altered. The socialist countries had already drawn attention to those facts at the Manila Conference in connexion with the question of possible ways of improving the work of UNCTAD.

115. The socialist countries were grateful to the Director of the Division for Programme Support Services for his statement describing the difficulties which arose as a result of UNCTAD's failure to implement its own resolutions, particularly those aimed at improving the work of the organization. In that connexion, he wished to stress once again the importance of implementing, in particular, resolution 111 (V) and the need to give the closest attention to the matter at the forthcoming session of the ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee on the rationalization of UNCTAD's machinery.

116. Mr. LICHTAN (Canada) said that it was the responsibility of delegations to raise the issue of UNCTAD's resources in the appropriate forums. As the case of small countries, it was very often the most representative who attended them all.

117. Mr. KOECK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that some delegations of Group B countries had been surprised at the secretariat's proposal, without prior consultation with the regional groups, to replace the meeting of the ad hoc High-level Group of Experts to prepare for global consultations on world economic trends and policies by another meeting of high-level experts on interdependence. He suggested that the proposal should be deleted, pending a decision on the subject by the resumed session of the Board in November.

118. Mr. KHAN (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the issue of interdependence had been on the Board's agenda for a number of years and that, in its resolution 144 (XVI), it had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to keep the matter under continuous review with the assistance of high-level experts. However, Governments should be consulted before meetings were convened. He therefore suggested that the slot in the calendar and the allocation of budgetary resources should be retained but that the proposal should be implemented in consultation with the regional groups.

119. Mr. BENTHOUD (Director, Division for Programme Support Services) said that under foot-note [1] in document TD/B(XIX)/CRP.3 the secretariat had scheduled 16 weeks of services for which it had the necessary resources, whether or not a particular entry was deleted. On that matter, the secretariat would naturally be guided by the wishes of the Board.

120. In response to a question from the President, he confirmed that the proposed work of the high-level group of experts would be described in terms of Board decision 144 (XVI).

131. Mr. OBEHO (Ghana) said that his delegation would vehemently object to any implication that detracted from the legally binding nature of votes taken in UNCTAD or in any other United Nations body. He believed that the democratic process should apply in UNCTAD.

132. Mr. SOLA VILA (Cuba) said he supported the view that there should be no interference with procedures in international organizations.

133. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board agreed with the secretariat suggestion that it should authorize its President to address a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee requesting that body not to take up the UNCTAD programme budget until it had received the Board's comments.

134. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (agenda item 13) (TD/B/L.539 and Add.1-5)

135. Mr. HOUAIDEI (Tunisia), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Board on its nineteenth session (TD/B/L.539 and Add.1-5). The reports of Sessional Committees I and II, which the Board had already adopted, supplemented the account of the discussion in those Committees contained in chapters III, IV and V.

136. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should authorize the Rapporteur to complete the report as appropriate.

137. It was so decided.

138. The draft report, as a whole, was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

139. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Second part of the nineteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 526th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 23 November 1979, at 7 p.m.

President: Mr. FARNON (New Zealand)

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Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 7.10 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SECOND PART OF THE SESSION

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the second part of the nineteenth session of the Trade and Development Board.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 11) (continued)

(a) REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES (continued) (TD/B/L.542, TD/B/L.550)

2. The PRESIDENT recalled that, following the amendment by the General Assembly of its resolution 1995 (XIX) to the effect that the Board was normally to meet twice each year, the Board, at the first part of its nineteenth session, had amended rule 1 of its rules of procedure so as to reflect that change.

3. At its 525th meeting, the Board had decided, in conformity with rule 81 of its rules of procedure, to establish a working party of limited membership to consider the proposed amendments to rule 15, rule 19 and annex I, as set out in document TD/B/L.542, and report to the Board during the second part of its nineteenth session. The Board had also decided to adopt, at the second part of the session, a decision on its rules of procedure after having received the report of the Working Party.

4. The Working Party's report (TD/B/L.550) was currently before the Board. Since the membership of the Working Party had been representative of all regional groups and China, he hoped that the Board would be able to take a decision quickly on the recommendations made.

5. Mr. JAMET (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that Group B had proposed to the other regional groups that the Bureau of the Board should be maintained in office during two consecutive regular sessions, starting with the autumn session. The members of Group B, while regretting that the other groups had not found it possible to endorse that proposal, which had been advanced in the interests of efficiency, were nevertheless able to accept the solution recommended by the Working Party.

6. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should decide to adopt the amendments to its rules of procedure as proposed by the Working Party in document TD/B/L.550 and instruct the secretariat to incorporate them in the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board and annex I thereto.

7. It was so decided.

(b) REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (continued) (TD/B/INF.92; TD/B/L.551 and Add.1)

8. The PRESIDENT reminded the Board that, at its 525th meeting, it had decided to consider during the second part of its nineteenth session the question of the convening by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD of meetings of experts on the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system pursuant to its decision 144 (XVI). Furthermore, a number of matters concerning the calendar of meetings had arisen since the Board's last meeting. The amendments to the calendar of meetings for 1980 were to be found in document TD/B/L.551. He invited the Director of the Division for Programme Support Services to introduce the item.

9. Mr. BERTHOUD (Director, Division for Programme Support Services) introduced the note by the secretariat (TD/B/L.551). With regard to the issue of the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system which the Board, in its decision 144 (XVI), had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to keep under review with the assistance of high-level experts appointed by Governments as appropriate, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would shortly be consulting the co-ordinators of the regional groups with a view to convening a group of experts from 11 to 13 February 1980. That meeting should therefore be added to the changes contained in TD/B/L.551.

10. Since the resumption of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology was subject to the approval of the General Assembly, a foot-note to that effect should be added to the relevant entry. Regarding the proposal to include a further session of the United Nations Conference on a Convention on International Multimodal Transport, the Chairman of the Conference, which was currently in session, had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with the decision which the Board had adopted at its tenth special session, to make provision for the Conference to resume early in 1980. Further, the co-ordinators of regional groups had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to postpone the fourth session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities to early 1980 and to make provision for a further session of the Interim Committee before the resumption of the Conference.

11. If the Board adopted all the proposals before it, the number of weeks of meetings it would have authorized for 1980 would total 97.

12. Mr. STEINBACHER (Administrative Service) introduced the statement of financial implications (TD/B/L.551/Add.1).

13. Mr. IVANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of Group D, said that the calendar of meetings adopted by the Board at the first part of its nineteenth session had already been somewhat overloaded. Experience had shown that, when the calendar was overloaded, the secretariat did not ensure that documents were prepared in time; the work of meetings did not proceed efficiently enough; delegations did not have sufficient time to prepare themselves; and that generally, in the pursuit of quantity, quality was lost.

14. The Board was about to add a further number of meetings to those already planned for 1980. The growing volume of meetings would impose a strain and create a real threat that the meetings planned would be lacking in effectiveness. Group D, which attached great importance to increasing the efficiency of UNCTAD's work as a whole, considered that new meetings should be scheduled only if the secretariat were able to guarantee that the documentation would be prepared in time, as provided for in Conference resolution 111 (V), paragraph 10.

15. It considered further that the secretariat should submit to the Board, at its twentieth session, a statement on the status of the documentation, in accordance with resolution 114 (V), paragraph 10, for all the meetings planned.

16. Group D would be prepared to examine the possibility of postponing some meetings if they could not be properly serviced, from the first to the second half of 1980 or even from 1980 to 1981. What mattered was not the actual number of meetings in the calendar but the efficiency with which meetings were conducted.

17. Group D could agree to the rescheduling of the fourth session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities to 9-11 April 1980, on the understanding that, at its twentieth session, the Board might reconsider the question of the duration of that Conference in the light of the results of the fourth session of the Interim Committee.

18. Mr. JAINI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group D, said that his Group was able to accept the setting of dates for a meeting of high-level experts on the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system on the basis of Board decision 144 (XVI). It assumed that, before invitations were issued to the meeting, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would consult with interested regional groups on the subject of representation, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Conference resolution 114 (V).

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to approve the amendments to the calendar of meetings (TD/B/INF.92) contained in the note by the secretariat (TD/B/L.691).

20. The amendments to the calendar of meetings were approved.

21. The calendar of meetings, as amended, was approved.

22. Mr. STRELE (United States of America) said that, since there was a consensus among the members of the Board that a meeting of high-level experts on interdependence should be held, his country was prepared to participate in such a meeting. However, in view of the fact that the negotiations on the subject at the first part of the current session of the Board had unfortunately proved unsuccessful, his delegation - which had actively participated in those negotiations - did not believe that the convening of such a meeting was appropriate as yet.

23. Board decision 144 (XVI), which his delegation had endorsed, provided that the experts should be appointed "as appropriate". Given the intervening extensive discussions and the lack of agreement among member States on the formation and mandate of a group on interdependence, both at UNCTAD V and during the first part of the nineteenth session of the Board, his delegation did not believe that convening such a meeting would serve the interests of the member States.

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 12) (continued)

Resolution adopted by the Interim Committee of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities (TD/IPC/CF/COMF/IC/3, TD/B/772)

24. The PRESIDENT said that the resolution adopted by the Interim Committee of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities (TD/IPC/CF/COMF/IC/3) requested the Board, at its current session,

to recommend to the General Assembly that appropriate arrangements be made to advance the necessary funds to finance the preparatory work required for bringing the Common Fund into operation, up to a total of $U.S. million.

25. The text of a statement made by the spokesman for Group D upon the adoption of that resolution was circulated in the meeting in the form in document TD/B/772.

26. The Interim Committee had not taken any decisions on the nature and extent of the preparatory work required for bringing the Common Fund into operation, decisions which would be taken by the Negotiating Conference itself at the time of adoption of the Articles of Agreement. The reason for making a recommendation to the General Assembly at the present stage was to ensure that resources could be made available once the Agreement had been adopted and the Conference had taken such decisions. Although such a recommendation could be made by the General Assembly at its present session, work would not be able to begin until after the General Assembly had considered the question at its thirty-fifth session at the end of 1980.

27. In the light of the above observations, he invited the Board to adopt the draft text on preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation, which had been prepared by the secretariat and circulated informally.

28. Mr. IVASHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of Group D, said that, although the members of his Group had not stood in the way of the adoption of the resolution by the Interim Committee, they still maintained the position on that issue which they had formulated at the Interim Committee's closing meeting. He requested that the reservation expressed on that occasion should be reproduced in full in the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its nineteenth session.

29. The PRESIDENT assured the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that that would be done.

30. The draft text on preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation was adopted.

Servicing of UNCTAD meetings (TD/B/L.575)

31. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to consider the draft resolution on the servicing of UNCTAD meetings submitted by France and Spain on behalf of the States members of Group B (TD/B/L.575).

32. Mr. WESSEL (France), introducing the draft resolution, apologized for submitting it at rather a late stage in the proceedings. The facts of the matter were well known to all members of the Board. The difficulties encountered were linked to the intense work of activities in UNCTAD; the draft resolution should not be viewed, therefore, as implying any criticism of any part of the secretariat.

33. It had been brought to his attention that delegations whose working language was not English were not the only ones to encounter difficulties of the kind referred to in the draft resolution; accordingly, he proposed to revise the text of the draft resolution by inserting the words "in particular" before the words "by delegations" in the second line of the penultimate paragraph.

34. Mr. BERNARDEZ (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Latin American Group, expressed support for the draft resolution.

35. Mr. RICHARDS (New Zealand) said that his delegation was fully in sympathy with the problems of those delegations which were obliged to work in languages other than their own. Unfortunately, the text of the draft resolution had been distributed too late for his delegation to seek instructions on the matter; he hoped, however, that the measures requested in the draft would be considered in the context of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee on the Rationalization of UNCTAD's Machinery.

36. Mr. OLOWER-AGGREY (Ghana) said that, although he, too, had had insufficient time to consider the draft resolution, he believed that, in supporting it, he was voicing the views of a large number of members of the African group.

37. Mr. RAOELINA (Madagascar), having expressed his support for the draft resolution, said that the difficulties encountered by delegations whose working language was not English had an adverse effect on the principle of the universality of UNCTAD. The practice of conducting informal negotiating sessions in English only meant that some delegations were reluctant or indeed unwilling to participate in them.

38. The delay in the distribution of documents translated into all the working languages of UNCTAD was also prejudicial to the work of the organization. It was patently wrong that the delegations of developing countries, whose Governments had to make great efforts to pay their travel and subsistence allowances, should be penalized for not being English-speaking. The fact that the headquarters of UNCTAD was located at Geneva did not mean that it should be dependent upon the administrative services of another independent body. It was essential that all delegations should participate effectively in the work of UNCTAD, and appropriate facilities should be made available to that end.

39. The provisions of Conference resolution 114 (V) would remain a dead letter if, when the proposed Programme Budget was put before the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the opportunity was not taken to inform that Committee of the seriousness of the difficulties UNCTAD was encountering and to express the desire that it should be granted the necessary administrative autonomy with a view, in particular, to the strengthening of the language services.

40. In connexion with the UNCTAD Programme Budget for 1980-1981, he said that there was a discrepancy between the increase in the workload established by member States for the UNCTAD secretariat and the proposed Programme Budget, which provided for only a very limited number of new professional posts. If the Board had been consulted sufficiently in advance, it could have formulated proposals to meet the secretariat's real needs.

41. Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) said that his delegation, which experienced difficulties in using English for the purposes of its work in international organizations, shared the concerns which had prompted France and Spain to submit the draft resolution (TD/B/L.553). Nevertheless, it had some misgivings about the wording of the draft

resolution, which seemed to imply that the main reason for the current unsatisfactory situation was a lack of financial resources, an implication that might hamper the efforts being made to rationalize the Board's work. It would, however, not oppose the draft resolution, provided that the Board adopted it without prejudice to the efforts being made by the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee on the Rationalization of UNCTAD's machinery.

42. Mr. GILLIN (Australia) said that his delegation, which was very conscious of the problems of delegations that had to work in languages other than their own, believed that the draft resolution under consideration related to matters of long-term interest to everyone involved in United Nations conferences.

43. In view of the fact, however, that the draft resolution, which had ultimate financial implications and which, as the representative of Japan had pointed out, might affect the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization, had only recently been circulated, he had been unable to give it the full consideration that was required before he could join in a consensus on the subject.

44. Mr. STREET (United States of America) said that he, too, was unable to join in a consensus on the draft resolution, since his authorities and, in particular, those dealing with the difficult issues of languages and the budget in New York, had not yet had an opportunity to comment on the text and its implications. That procedural reservation should not, however, detract from the great importance which his delegation attached to the solution of the problems raised in the draft resolution, for it fully sympathized with those delegations for which English was not a working language.

45. It was also of the opinion that the draft resolution should have reflected the fact that the problem of the processing of documents and of UNCTAD's working methods must be dealt with by the Working Party of the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization.

46. Mr. SAYAD (Qatar) said that the difficulties encountered by Arabic-speaking delegations as a result of the non-availability of documentation and interpretation in Arabic hampered their effective participation in negotiations in UNCTAD and, consequently, in the efforts being made to establish a new international economic order. His delegation therefore supported the draft resolution under consideration.

47. Mr. PARRISH (Canada) said that his delegation, which supported the draft resolution and its basic objective of improving the system of documentation, translation and interpretation, took the view that the question of securing improvements in those areas should be considered not only in New York, but also at Geneva. Its support of the draft resolution was therefore based on the assumption that, in the coming months, discussions would be held involving the member Governments of UNCTAD, the UNCTAD secretariat and the United Nations Office at Geneva. The logical forum for such discussions would be the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization and, in particular, its Working Party, which should examine the issues of documentation, translation and interpretation as a matter of high priority and attempt to find alternative solutions, comparing their costs and, whenever possible, using redeployment of current resources to improve the services.

48. In that connexion, he thought that the problem to be solved was likely to prove as much a management as a financial one. If the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization were to consider those issues at its second session, it could then make specific recommendations to the Board at its twentieth session for transmission to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

49. Mr. TUOMIOJA (Finland), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Norway and Sweden, expressed support for the draft resolution. The fact that English was the working language of those delegations had been a clear advantage to them in negotiations where the documentation and interpretation provided in other languages had been inadequate. They fully understood the difficulties encountered in such negotiations by delegations whose working language was not English and, with a view to overcoming those difficulties, were prepared to join in a consensus on the draft resolution.

50. Mr. LI Chih-min (China) said that his delegation, which supported the draft resolution, was of the opinion that it was time to seek a solution to the problems which were raised in that resolution and which had been discussed frequently in the past. On the threshold of the 1980s, it was appropriate to ask the General Assembly to improve the existing situation in order to make UNCTAD's work more effective. Measures to that end should be adopted as soon as possible and should not await the outcome of the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization.

51. Mr. ZEDAN (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation agreed with the view expressed by the representative of Qatar and fully supported the draft resolution.

52. Mr. SALIBA (Malta) said that his delegation, which also supported the draft resolution under consideration, was of the opinion that, while the issue of conference servicing was one that could be discussed by the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization, it was one that also affected the translation services, which were not exclusively at the disposal of UNCTAD. The draft resolution might serve to bring to the attention of delegations in New York the need to ensure that the translation services at Geneva and at Headquarters were proportionate in size to the number of meetings held in the two centres.

53. Mr. DE LAICLESIA (Spain) said that his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution because it considered it necessary to find basic solutions to the serious problems at hand. That did not, however, mean that other practical and, perhaps, more immediate solutions to those problems should be abandoned. Although the Ad hoc Committee on Rationalization would undoubtedly devote attention to those problems, in accordance with its terms of reference, the draft resolution did not rule out the possibility of seeking other ways and means of finding basic solutions. His delegation was convinced that, on the basis of the consensus which seemed to have been reached in the Board, it would be possible to solve those problems and establish better communications between all States, in which connexion the question of languages was of vital importance.

54. Mr. GAYNOR (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, in which at least six different languages were used, said that the Community was fully in favour of the draft resolution under consideration and would urge its adoption.

55. Mr. HESSEL (France) said that he fully agreed with the representatives of Canada and Japan that the adoption of the draft resolution would encourage the Board to continue to make every effort to rationalize and improve the effectiveness of its work. While understanding the misgivings expressed on account of the late submission of the draft resolution, he urged all members of the Board to join in the consensus on it.

56. Mr. SCHNEBLIN (Switzerland) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution and urged all delegations to join in the consensus on it so as to enable the Board to work as effectively as possible.

57. Mr. MOLCHAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the members of Group D, said that they supported the draft resolution but considered that it had nothing to do with the UNCTAD budget and the report of the Working Party on the UNCTAD Programme Budget for the biennium 1980-1981. In paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the words "on submitting the budget estimates concerning the UNCTAD secretariat" should therefore be deleted.

58. The adoption of the draft resolution must not be regarded as meaning that the problems existing in UNCTAD with regard to the distribution of documentation and its interpretation were essentially connected with matters relating to the servicing of conferences in the United Nations Office at Geneva. Nor should the resolution be regarded as replacing the provisions of Conference resolution 112 (V) which prescribed measures to curtail the frequency and length of the meetings of different organs of UNCTAD.

59. Group D considered that the problem of the distribution of documentation and of interpretation would be carefully examined as a separate item by the Ad Hoc Committee on Rationalization, which had been convened pursuant to resolution 112 (V) and had just begun its work. The draft resolution should not prejudge the outcome of the examination of the question by that Committee.

60. Mr. STOESS (United States of America) said that, although he did not object to the sentiment of the draft resolution and would be reluctant to have any reservation he might make on it imply that he did not take the problem seriously, he would have welcomed an opportunity to discuss some of the substantive difficulties to which the draft resolution gave rise and to which the representative of the Soviet Union had referred. More particularly, he was in no position to make comments on the words "to take all necessary steps" in paragraph 1 or on the words "on submitting the budget estimates concerning the UNCTAD secretariat" in paragraph 2 without first hearing the views of his colleagues in New York who were responsible for such matters.

61. Mr. GLEMM (Australia) said that, like the representative of the United States, he had some difficulties with the wording of the draft resolution, which he had not had any opportunity to discuss in depth. As he had previously stated, however, he had no objection to the general thrust of the text.

62. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board might adopt the draft resolution by consensus, on the understanding that the comments and reservations made thereon would be duly reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

63. The draft resolution (TD/B/L.551) was adopted.

Report of the Working Party on the UNCTAD Programme Budget for the biennium 1980-1981 (TD/B(XIX)/WP/L.1 and Add. 1-4; TD/B/L.545)

64. Mr. CHIBRI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Chairman of the Working Party, said that the Working Party had held seven meeting, and had adopted its report (TD/B(XIX)/WP/L.2 and Add. 1-4; TD/B/L.545) at its closing meeting on 23 November 1979.

65. At its first meeting, the Working Party had, at the proposal of the Group of 77, agreed to replace Algeria by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as a member of the Working Party, subject to the approval of the Board.

66. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Board agreed that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya should replace Algeria as a member of the Working Party.

67. It was so agreed.

68. Mr. VOLKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of Group D, said that the Group reserved its position with regard to the increase in the proposed Programme Budget and that it reserved the right to take its definitive position on the proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 1980-1981 when it was discussed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

69. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should take note of the report of the Working Party of the nineteenth meeting of the Board on the UNCTAD Programme Budget for the biennium 1980-1981 (TD/B(XIX)/WP/L. and Add. 1-4; TD/B/L.545).

70. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (agenda item 17) (continued) (TD/B/777)

71. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Board should adopt the draft report on the second part of the nineteenth session (TD/B/777), authorizing the rapporteur to complete it and include in it the report of the Working Party on the UNCTAD Programme Budget for the biennium 1980-1981 and the comments made thereon by the members of the Board, for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

72. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

73. The PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

TD

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TD/B/SR.307
19 March 1970

Original: ENGLISH

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Eleventh special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 307th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Friday, 13 March 1970, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. FURNIVALL (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

Procedural matters:

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(b) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

(c) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board

The contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

Procedural matters:

(d) Adoption of the report on credentials

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.6108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of the Board at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the eleventh special session of the Trade and Development Board.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 1)

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (TD/B/777)

2. The agenda was adopted.

3. The PRESIDENT suggested that agenda item 2 should be dealt with in plenary.

4. It was so decided.

(b) TREATMENT OF NEW STATES MEMBERS OF UNCTAD FOR PURPOSES OF ELECTIONS

5. The PRESIDENT suggested that item 1(b) should be taken up at the twentieth session of the Board, scheduled to open on 17 March 1980.

6. It was so decided.

(c) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

7. The PRESIDENT informed the Board that its membership stood at 121 member States.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF UNCTAD TO THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (agenda item 2) (TD/B/775, 785 and Add.1, TD/B/AC.31/L.2, TD/B/AC.31/CRP.3 and Corr.1, CRP.4 and Corr.1, CRP.5 and CRP.6)

8. The PRESIDENT said that the High-level Intergovernmental Group on the Contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the New International Development Strategy had met twice. The report on the first session was available (TD/B/785), and the report on the second session would appear the following week as document TD/B/791. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 34/211, in which the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the new International Development Strategy should address itself, among its priority objectives, to increasing substantially the flow of resources in real terms to the developing countries on a predictable, continuous and increasingly assured basis. The Board was expected to make its contribution to the formulation of the new Strategy available to the Preparatory Committee at its fifth session to be held from 14 to 25 April 1980.

9. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group on the Contribution of UNCTAD to the Preparation of the New International Development Strategy, said that on 28 January 1980 the High-Level Intergovernmental Group had elected him (Mr. Marker) as its Chairman

and Mr. G. Menze (Federal Republic of Germany) as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Mr. L. Sekulić (Yugoslavia) had acted as interim Chairman. The Group had held two sessions, the first from 30 January to 3 February 1980 and the second from 10 to 13 March 1980. Discussions on a draft of the contribution by UNCTAD to the formulation of the International Development Strategy had been held both at plenary meetings of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group and in a Contact Group. The discussions had been inconclusive because of lack of time. Nevertheless, the High-Level Group had endorsed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/767, annex I, resolution 6 (III), text also reproduced in document TD/B/AC.31/L.2), and had agreed that those recommendations should form part of the contribution of UNCTAD to the new Strategy. The High-Level Group had also agreed that the intergovernmental negotiations in progress in UNCTAD on various issues should continue and should be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. The position papers submitted on behalf of various groups of countries (TD/B/AC.31/CRP.3 and Corr.1, CRP.5 and CRP.6) and the text of the recommendations concerning the least developed countries (TD/B/AC.31/L.2) would be annexed to the report of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group.

12. Mr. ZAGARI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B and introducing document TD/B/AC.31/CRP.4, said that the new International Development Strategy should provide a common framework to facilitate co-operative efforts aimed at accelerating development, reducing world poverty and contributing to a more efficient, just and equitable international economic order. It was important to obtain widespread agreement on the Strategy's goals and on the policy measures needed to achieve them. Care must be taken to establish in detail the mechanisms by which internal policy efforts and external policy measures related to one another and to these objectives.

13. An efficient, growing and increasingly stable world economy could substantially facilitate the efforts of developing countries to strengthen and diversify their economies and to improve the living standards of their people in the coming development decade. The international community should, therefore, facilitate the structural changes necessary to promote an efficient and growing world economy, to encourage the expansion of the developing countries' economic role in the international system and to facilitate meaningful improvements in their economic and social situation. The economic well-being of any given country could not be pursued in isolation, and intensified economic co-operation among all countries, with each country contributing according to its capacity, was essential to improving global economic relations and achieving mutually beneficial changes in the world economy.

14. The new International Development Strategy should be concerned, among other things, with: realistically ambitious and coherent goals and objectives, account being taken of existing problems in the increasingly interdependent international economy; an appropriate balance between economic growth and human welfare, with special emphasis on increased productive employment; an appropriate balance between the commitments and undertakings of all partners in the development process and the international economic system; primary responsibility of the developing countries for their own development; effective efforts to facilitate

financial flows, including official development assistance, to developing countries; realistic recognition of differences among developing countries, with special attention being paid to faster progress by the low-income countries; effective efforts to render development co-operation and assistance consistent with specific, internationally agreed priority objectives; recognition of the mutual interest of developed and developing countries in the flows of trade and financial resources between the two groups, as well as among the developing countries themselves; the responsibility of all countries with regard to strengthening and maintaining an open world trading system; effective efforts to expand exports, both manufactured and resource-based, and to implement the Integrated Programme for Commodities as agreed in UNCTAD resolution 93 (IV); recognition of the role of market forces in the continuing adjustment process.

13. He asked that the text of his statement should be annexed to the report on the special session.

14. Mr. DAS (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and introducing document TD/B/AC.31/CRP.3 and Corr.1, said that the Second United Nations Development Decade had not achieved its objectives. In the course of the decade, the problems facing the world had been further aggravated and the gap between rich and poor had widened. It was essential, therefore, that greater efforts should be made during the third development decade.

15. The problems of the world economy were not cyclical in nature but were the result of basic defects in the world economic system. It was not enough to eradicate poverty in the world. The world community, groups of countries and individual countries must work towards eliminating maladjustments in the world economic system in order to achieve greater equality by the end of the third development decade. What was needed was a complete overhaul of institutional and economic frameworks. The Group of 77 had made specific suggestions for programmes, objectives and guidelines relating to various sectors within the competence of UNCTAD. It was essential, for example, to reshape the commodity market, to improve commodity processing and to give developing countries greater control over processing, marketing, manufacture and trade. The monetary and financial system must also be restructured.

16. The development of economic co-operation among the developing countries themselves was extremely important, and although the improvement of such co-operation was mainly the responsibility of those countries, the world community as a whole should make a contribution by creating an environment that would foster such co-operation.

17. Despite the efforts of the Group of 77, the High-Level Intergovernmental Group had been unable to enter into meaningful negotiations and had therefore not been in a position to submit to the Board a document embodying a consensus. However, the position papers prepared by the groups represented important contributions, and he hoped that they would be taken into consideration in the formulation of the new International Development Strategy.

1/ The report is to be circulated as document TD/B/709.

2/ Chapter II, Agreed Text (TD/B/C.3/AC.1 and Corr.1 and 2), reproduced in Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, second session, vol. I, Annex II, p. A.3.

not be right for UNCTAD to shirk its responsibilities by submitting itself to a decision to be taken in another forum. He had devoted the best years of his working life to UNCTAD, and was most reluctant to allow it to become known as an organization that shirked its responsibilities.

34. Mr. FARTHING (Argentina) endorsed the view expressed by the representative of the Philippines. The Intergovernmental Group was to be congratulated on its efforts, but the UNCTAD Board was not. The Group of 77 had every reason to be disappointed. It had worked hard from the outset in a constructive spirit, and the broad proposals it had submitted to the Intergovernmental Group had represented a joint position obtained as the result of great sacrifices on the part of some countries. He did not feel that equal efforts to negotiate had been made by the representatives of countries in Group B, and considered that the late submission of the Group B paper reflected a lack of any real desire to negotiate.

35. Mr. KARKER (Pakistan), supported by Mr. HUSAIN (Bangladesh), Mr. SAI (China), Mr. [illegible] (Ethiopia), Mr. [illegible] (Ghana), Mr. [illegible] (Iraq), Mr. SAOU (Singapore), Mr. [illegible] (Sudan), Mr. [illegible] (Yugoslavia), fully endorsed the statement by the Philippine representative.

36. The PRESIDENT said that the Board appeared to have concluded its substantive debate of UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy, and could consider its course of action. It might now be ready to consider the report on the third session of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/787).

37. Mr. LAUTOFT (Denmark), Chairman of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, said that at its third session the Intergovernmental Group had been called on, by Conference resolution 122 (V), to review the recommendations of the Group of High-Level Experts that had met in November 1979 to consider, first, the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; secondly, studies of the requirements, special measures and other detailed elements of an improved strategy to assist the least developed countries; and thirdly, detailed recommendations for the operation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s. A list of the documents before the Group at its third session appeared as Annex II to its report (TD/B/787).

38. The third session had been very successful. It had heard encouraging statements both from donors and from least developed countries on steps being taken to implement the Immediate Action Programme (1979-81), and on their support for the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s. The constructive spirit prevailing at the session had resulted in the unanimous adoption of four important resolutions (Annex I to the report). The text of resolution 6 (III), entitled "Recommendations on the least developed countries for inclusion in the International Development Strategy for the United Nations Development Decade", was of special relevance to the Board's eleventh special session, for it had been adopted unanimously.

39. The PRESIDENT called on the representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to introduce the report of the Group of High-Level Experts on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries (TD/B/775).

40. Mr. STOUP (representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD) said that Conference resolution 122 (V) on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries had called on the UNCTAD Board to review at its special session the recommendations of the Group of High-Level Experts and to consider the background studies of the requirements, special measures and other detailed elements of an improved strategy for assisting the least developed countries. That document had not been fully studied, because it had become available only recently, but it would clearly prove most useful in the development of the New Programme of Action and in preparing the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The other background documents were useful, and the Board might wish to take note of them and recall that as background documents for the use of the preparatory machinery of that Conference.

41. Mr. [illegible] (Bangladesh) said that unanimous agreement had been reached on the proposals concerning the least developed countries as part of the contribution by UNCTAD to the International Development Strategy, although there had been some difficulties during the negotiations. The report of the High-Level Experts provided information that would prove useful in the formulation of the provisions of the new Strategy relating to the least developed countries. It considered that that report (TD/B/C.7/2 and 3(2)) should be transmitted to the General Assembly.

42. The PRESIDENT said it might be possible to organize a further session by the High-Level Expert Group shortly. It had been thought that such a session would be difficult. The unsuccessful efforts had been made by very able people. The proposal made by the representative of the Philippines for another attempt had received considerable support. The secretariat would, of course, have to inquire whether another meeting could be accommodated within the existing calendar of meetings, and the Board might consider the matter at its twentieth session, in connexion with the calendar of future meetings.

43. Mr. [illegible] (Philippines) said that although his original suggestion had been a tentative proposal, it had won considerable support. He could not agree to the question of a further session of the High-Level Expert Group should be taken up by the Board at its twenty-first session, since it was clear that the mandate of the special session was to take whatever action was necessary in order to improve UNCTAD's contribution to the new Development Strategy. Obviously, therefore, it was perfectly proper to provide at the special session for a further session of the High-Level Expert Group. It was the duty of the secretariat to implement the decisions of the Board, and not to raise difficulties.

44. The PRESIDENT said that the agenda for the Board's twentieth session included an item on the calendar of meetings, and it would therefore be logical to consider the question at that session. His impression that the statement had given rise to the mistaken impression that the secretariat was not acting in its usual loyal best to carry out the Board's instructions within the bounds of the possible.

45. Mr. [illegible] (Italy) suggested that a decision might be taken, when the Board resumed work in the following week, to approve the report; in the meantime it would be sufficient to take note both of the proposal by the Group of 77 for submitting the report and the annexed documents to the Preparatory Committee and of the proposal for continuing negotiations.

46. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said he did not consider there was any point in proposing a further session of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group if there was no real political will on the part of Group B to negotiate, and thus to comply with the Board's mandate. He did not regard the Group B paper as a serious basis for negotiation and supported the paper submitted by the Group of 77.

47. Mr. CHIDI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that the spokesmen for the Group of 77 had recognized and welcomed the efforts made by the various groups in the preceding week to prepare a consolidation document on UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy. The Chairman of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group had also recognized in his statement that the reason why negotiations had not taken place was that there had not been sufficient time. He (Mr. Chidi) therefore objected to the approach made by the delegation of Argentina concerning Group B's alleged unwillingness to negotiate.

48. Mr. TEKLEWOLD (Ethiopia) said that, if delegations so agreed, the Board might decide to reconvene the High-Level Intergovernmental Group and to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to inform the Board, at the start of its twentieth session, what it would be possible to conclude further in time.

49. Mr. ZERPA (Venezuela) said that the proposal by the representative of the Philippines for the continuation of the work of the High-Level Intergovernmental Group would have been a valid one if it had been presented by Group B. Unfortunately, however, the view of Group B was that the decision on the proposal should be postponed until the start of the Board's twentieth session. In his delegation's opinion, that attitude indicated that Group B continued to be unwilling to negotiate. He would not, therefore, see how the problem could be solved merely by adding the agreed text to suggest dates for further meetings, particularly since the Preparatory Committee also had a heavy programme of work which had to be completed by June 1980. Paragraph 2 of Board resolution 189 (XIX) stated that the eleventh special session should "consider and, as appropriate, adopt" the contribution which UNCTAD should make to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, but his delegation was of the opinion that it was neither possible nor appropriate for the Board to reach unanimous agreement on a contribution. In his opinion, the Board should merely take note of the positions of the various groups and transmit the relevant documents to the Preparatory Committee.

50. Mr. CASTRO ARAIJO (El Salvador), Mr. DIAZ TEJERA (Mexico), Mr. ALONSO ESPINOSA (Cuba) and Mr. LAZO (Trinidad and Tobago) supported the views expressed by the representative of Venezuela.

51. Mr. CHIDI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B, referred to his earlier suggestion that, when resuming its twenty-ninth special session, in the course of its twentieth session, the Board might take a decision on the proposal made by the Group of 77 that document TD/B/783 and the annexes thereto should be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee in New York and take note of the desire of delegations to continue work on UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy. Group B would not therefore oppose the idea of continuing the work on the consolidation of UNCTAD to the preparation of the new Strategy.

58. The PRESIDENT said that he could not support that the Board's views regarding the nature and urgency to be outlined. It appeared, therefore, that no decision should be taken at the current meeting, and he was pretending that he would consult with the President of the Committee of the Whole on the recommendations of the various groups concerning a solution to the exemption of the Seventh special session.

57. Mr. DAS (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said he did not think that the proposal by the Philippine representative conflicted with that put forward by the Group of 77. [illegible] interpreted the Philippine proposal [illegible] continuation of the work of the Ad-hoc Inter-governmental Group on consultation on the proposal [illegible] by the Group of 77 [illegible] document TD/B/770 and its annex should be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee. The Group of 77 was prepared to continue consultations on the contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the International Development Strategy. The Group of 77 was willing to hold further consultations. It supported the view that a decision on the proposal should be taken by the Board during its Seventh special session in the course of its twenty-fifth session.

58. Mr. DIAZ (Italy), speaking on behalf of the group of countries [illegible] Group B had no objection to the termination of the consultations under [illegible] Inter-governmental Group on the continuation of the work of the Ad-hoc Inter-governmental Group.

59. The PRESIDENT (Romania) said it was therefore necessary to decide the date by which the report of the Ad-hoc Inter-governmental Group would have to be communicated to the Preparatory Committee in its Ad-hoc capacity. It would not be possible for the regional groups to continue their consultations until that time.

60. The PRESIDENT said that the Board was expected to submit its contribution to the preparatory Committee in the Ad-hoc Committee's meeting scheduled from 14 to 25 April and that it was for the Board itself to decide whether further consultations should be held.

61. Mr. ARTIGUEZ (Philippines) reaffirmed that the views he had expressed, which had become a bird of proposal, were not in conflict with the proposal made by the spokesman of the Group of 77. With regard to the proposal for further consultations on the document to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee, he was glad to note that the spokesman for Group B had confirmed that Group's willingness to continue work on UNCTAD's contribution to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy. That confirmation could be taken as a reply to the opinions expressed by the delegations of Argentina, Venezuela, El Salvador, Mexico, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago.

62. He formally proposed that the Secretariat should be requested to submit the report contained in document TD/B/770/Add.5 and the annex thereto directly to the Preparatory Committee and whether to continue the work on UNCTAD's contribution to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy should be taken simultaneously when the Board considered the calendar of meetings at its twenty-fifth session.

63. Mr. MEDINA (Ecuador) said that his delegation supported the proposal by the representative of the Philippines.

60. Mr. SUAYO (Indonesia) said that his delegation likewise supported the Philippine proposal that the documents under consideration should be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee and that another round of negotiations should be held so that UNCTAD might make a positive contribution to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy.

61. Mr. HARRIS (United Kingdom) proposed that, in order to avoid any oversimplification of group positions, the Board should decide during the following week what its best course of action would be.

62. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that he was concerned more with the substance of the proposal he had made than with the timing of a decision on it.

63. The PRESIDENT said he gathered that all delegations agreed that the two decisions should be taken simultaneously at the same meeting. The Board did, however, need a short period of reflection because there was no consensus on what it would do in future.

64. Mr. LALOUX (Belgium) said that his delegation agreed with the President that the two decisions should be taken simultaneously and that there should be some time for reflection.

65. During that time, he hoped that delegations would consider the following points: First, there was no contradiction between the two decisions to be taken. Secondly, as other delegations had also pointed out, the achievement of disappointing results was nothing new in UNCTAD. The current session was certainly not the first time that texts setting out the positions of the various groups had had to be annexed to a report. Thirdly, the Board's task was not so much to schedule further negotiations as to ensure that a unanimously agreed text was sent to the Preparatory Committee in New York. In view of the warning sounded by the Director of the UNCTAD Division for Programme Support Services and by the spokesman for the Group of 77 at the preceding session of the Board, his delegation considered that it was not always necessary or reasonable to reconvene groups of experts every time they were unable to reach agreement.

66. Mr. TERUFE (Ethiopia) said it was a positive sign that the spokesmen for Group B and the Group of 77 had both stated that their Groups were willing to try to reach agreement on a consolidated document containing UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy. In that connection, his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of the Philippines and considered that, if the Board transmitted the documents under consideration to the Preparatory Committee, no harm would be done if it also agreed to continue its work on UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy.

67. Mr. HOMADT (Austria) said that his delegation fully supported the views expressed by the representative of Belgium, for what was at stake was UNCTAD's credibility.

68. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board agreed to resume its eleventh special session during its twentieth session and to take a decision at that time on the proposal made by the representative of the Philippines.

69. It was so agreed.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 1)

(d) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON CREDENTIALS (TD/B/702)

70. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board had examined and found in order the credentials of all the representatives attending the eleventh special session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board decided to adopt the report on credentials.

71. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

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TD/B/SR.520
20 March 1980

Original: ENGLISH

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 520th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 17 March 1980, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PARSON (New Zealand)
later: Mr. NEMERE (Hungary)

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Opening of the session

Procedural matters (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

(a) Election of officers

Introductory statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Procedural matters (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (continued)

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (agenda item 8)

(c) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

(d) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of Main Committees

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12. Mr. Alvim (Brazil), Mr. Dmowski (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Kuwalat (Poland), Mr. Mora-Alvarado (Honduras), Mr. Lossi (Italy), Mr. Jaramillo (Colombia), Mr. Charara (Lebanon), Mr. Valdés (Cuba), Mr. Ginsbi (Ceylon) (Democratic Republic) and Mr. Dawda (Gambia) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD */

13. Mr. JONES (Secretary-General of UNCTAD) said that the twentieth session of the Board was the second to be held since the fifth session of the Conference at Manila and the first of the two 1980 sessions, in conformity with the Conference decision that the Board should henceforth meet twice a year. The agenda for the session was closely concerned with action to implement the decisions taken at the Manila session. He urged he was sure that members of the Board fully appreciated the gravity of the international environment which formed the background to the twentieth session. Two developments were of special relevance to its work. The first was the current world crisis, the most serious in recent years, which was affecting the whole international community. The developed countries were suffering inflation, recession and unemployment. The developing countries were facing payment imbalances larger than ever before. Their balance-of-payments gap for 1980 was expected to exceed the figure of $55 billion forecast at the time of the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in October 1979 and was now projected to reach $75 billion. There were apparently no arrangements for bridging the gap and if nothing was done the developing countries would have to face a reduction in the tempo of their development and the disruption of their normal economic life. The prospect was extremely serious and should receive the urgent attention of the world community. Many of the facets of the current world economic situation, related to the crisis in the trading, monetary and financial systems and reflected problems with which UNCTAD had long been concerned. The seriousness of the situation in respect of both its short-term and its long-term aspects heightened the urgency with which the Board should approach its work at the twentieth session.

14. The recent development of general events in the United Nations system in the coming months. A special session of the General Assembly was to be held at the end of August and beginning of September 1980 to consider problems of development and one of its main tasks would be to adopt the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s and launch a new global round of negotiations. He was glad to report that, despite pressures and limited time, UNCTAD had been able to respond to the invitation of the General Assembly's Preparatory Committee on the Strategy. In the past week the High-Level Intergovernmental Group on the Contribution of UNCTAD to the Preparation of the New International Development Strategy had met and the regional groups in UNCTAD had set out their positions in some detail. He thought that the work of the High-Level Group would provide a useful basis for the Preparatory Committee in preparing the new Strategy for adoption at the Assembly's special session.

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*/ The text of the statement was subsequently issued under symbol TD/B/(XX)/Misc.1.

15. He had recently attended a meeting in New York of the ministers of the countries members of the Group of 77 on matters relevant to the new global round of negotiations - in particular its agenda - and had sensed a strong and sincere desire for UNCTAD and other organizations in the United Nations system to make a positive contribution to those negotiations. The issues to be dealt with had long been of concern to UNCTAD, and accordingly he considered it essential to determine how the work of UNCTAD and the global negotiations could be mutually supportive and reinforcing.

16. In addressing the Group of 77 meeting he had drawn attention to the desire expressed there that the global round should not impede current negotiations within the United Nations system and that the two should be mutually supportive. He had also stated that the issues on which UNCTAD was already involved in negotiations or already had mandates to initiate new processes fell into two categories. The first included a number of subjects specified by the Conference at its fourth session held at Nairobi: the establishment of the Common Fund, international commodity agreements, the adoption of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, the establishment of acceptable rules and principles to regulate restrictive business practices and the formulation and adoption of a convention on multimodal transport. All those were the subject of continuing and complex negotiations in which progress had been made. In virtually every case most of the work had been done and completion was in sight. Although negotiations were necessarily slow and there were still problems to be overcome, there was no question of deadlock. All that was needed was time and the necessary political will. It was surely not unrealistic to believe that negotiations could be successfully concluded during the current year. He hoped that they would not be contingent on the settlement of a number of critical issues that were to form part of the global round of negotiations, which might not start until early in 1981.

17. The second category of issues arose out of the new mandate assigned to UNCTAD by the Conference at its fifth session. A number of decisions had been taken requesting UNCTAD to initiate intergovernmental negotiations. In this regard, three important subjects could be highlighted: the addition of new elements to the Integrated Programme for Commodities, relating to the marketing, distribution and processing of commodities; recommendations on protectionism and structural adjustment - the link between the two was emphasized by their inclusion in one resolution; and the decision by vote to set up a group of experts on the fundamental aspects of reform of the international monetary system, with emphasis on its relationship with trade and development.

18. With regard to the Manila decision concerning the marketing, distribution and processing of commodities, he said that the UNCTAD secretariat was preparing the groundwork for intergovernmental action at an appropriate moment. Regarding the reform of the international monetary system, he said that provision had been made in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings for a meeting of government experts in late July.

19. He urged the Board to give every attention to the serious issue of protectionism and structural adjustment. He felt that UNCTAD should involve itself more deeply in various aspects of the problem of world trade, as that was part of UNCTAD's raison d'être. The Board had to consider how to implement the decision on the question of protectionism and structural adjustment. In his opinion, the issues it raised were so wide-ranging and multifaceted that at the present stage only the Board itself could take an over-all and integrated view of them, and it was therefore hard to see how consideration of them could be delegated to a subsidiary body.

20. With regard to the other items on the agenda, he noted that item 5 had been transmitted by the nineteenth session, at which he had expressed the view that action on the item would represent a useful contribution on the part of UNCTAD and fill a gap in the present system. Concern had been expressed at the possible duplication of effort, but he considered that a review of the world economic situation in depth on an annual basis by the Board, based on a thorough expert review of the facts of the situation would be useful for any negotiation process in the United Nations system.

21. Another issue was the debt problem of developing countries. Even if the huge financial gap could be closed, which was a major challenge in itself, much of the financing of the deficit would further aggravate the external debt situation of the developing countries, and it was therefore more urgent than ever to tackle the fundamental aspects of the problem. In that connexion, he was pleased to draw attention to the letter received from the Government of the Netherlands */ on additional debt relief measures taken by it pursuant to part A of Board resolution 165 (S-9). He added that in his opinion the Board, at the present session, could provide some impetus to the search for a solution relating to guidelines or features for dealing with emerging debt situations of developing countries.

22. The Board was expected at the current session to assess progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order, which would be a major theme for the special session of the General Assembly in August/September 1980. The present session of the Board was the last prior to that special session of the General Assembly, and any contribution by the Board would have to be formulated at the current session. The UNCTAD secretariat had submitted a report to the nineteenth session and had provided additional information to the current session.

23. Another issue to be considered by the Board was the evaluation of the results of the multilateral trade negotiations, on which the secretariat had submitted a report (TD/B/778 and Add.1). The implementation of the decisions reached in those negotiations had commenced in GATT, and he had already written to the Director-General of GATT stressing the need for and the usefulness of UNCTAD participation in that work.

24. He noted that economic co-operation among developing countries was another issue before the Board at its twentieth session. The interregional meeting of the developing countries on a number of priority areas in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries had originally been scheduled prior to the twentieth session of the Board, but in fact it was being held concurrently with it.

25. Another important item on the agenda concerned the rationalization of UNCTAD's work. The Board had before it a report on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee on the Rationalization of UNCTAD's Machinery (TD/B/756), at which valuable suggestions had been made by all members although consensus had not been reached on the precise measures needed. The subject merited careful consideration and therefore might need to be considered further at the following session; but to the extent that some decisions might be taken immediately, there was no reason for delaying them. A related issue was the request that he should consult with the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to seeing how a greater degree of flexibility could be provided to UNCTAD in respect of conference services, budgetary, financial, personnel and administrative matters. He had brought the issues to the attention of the

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*/ Reproduced in document TD/B/790.

Secretary-General of the United Nations, who was in favour of all possible action in that regard. A high-level meeting had been held in New York. Discussions at a more technical level were under way, and it was hoped that by the time of the Board's next session a report might be submitted on the results of those consultations.

26. In conclusion, he stressed that the twentieth session was very short and had a crowded agenda, which represented an arduous task ahead. The Board was called upon to make an important contribution to the future work of UNCTAD on a number of serious issues, and he expressed his best wishes for the success of the session.

27. Mr. JANNI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B, congratulated the President on his election and thanked the outgoing President for his work during the nineteenth session and the Secretary-General for his address, which would be a source of inspiration to all delegations.

28. Mr. ARAUJO (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, thanked the Secretary-General for his statement, which represented a major contribution to the substantive work of the Board's twentieth session, and added that the text of the statement should be circulated as an official document of the session.

29. Mr. PRAVDA (Czechoslovakia), on behalf of Group D, congratulated the President on his election and expressed his thanks to the outgoing President and to the Secretary-General for his address.

30. Mr. MICOLLI (Deputy Secretary of the Board) announced, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2990 (XXIV), the financial implications of circulating the text of the Secretary-General's statement in the original language only, in the four working languages or in the six official languages of the Organization.

31. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) congratulated the President on his election, which was in accordance with the principle of geographic rotation. With regard to the circulation of the text of the Secretary-General's address, he suggested that for this to serve a purpose it should be made available to delegations not later than the following morning.

32. Mr. ARAUJO (El Salvador) appreciated the limitations on the resources available to the secretariat for the production of documents, but pointed out that delegations needed documents in all the working languages, and that consideration should apply to the text of the statement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

33. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that if the text of the Secretary-General's statement was to serve the purpose delegations had in mind, namely, to give the members of the Board guidance regarding the different items on the agenda of the present session, it was needed quickly, and that would only be possible if it was issued in the original language.

34. Mr. AHOUNOU (Benin) said that for delegations which did not understand English the circulation of the Secretary-General's text in the original language only would be of little use.

35. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat could undertake to reproduce the text of the Secretary-General's statement in the original language by the next day and in other languages as soon thereafter as was feasible, if that would meet with the approval of members of the Board.

36. It was so decided.

37. Mrs. PUGLISI (Italy) said she felt obliged to point out, with respect to the matter of documentation, that many important documents, for example that concerning such highly technical matters as the multilateral trade negotiations, had been distributed only on the eve of the Board's session or were still not available in all languages. For the Board's work to be fruitful, it was necessary for delegations to consult their national experts, but such consultations were not possible if documents were not circulated in time. The Board was very much concerned with the question of the rationalization of UNCTAD's methods of work and machinery, and in fact was to discuss that subject at the current session. The timely circulation of documents was clearly essential to the rational functioning of UNCTAD, but in spite of all the promises and efforts made, the problem of their late issue persisted. In fact, the situation appeared to have deteriorated of late. She would therefore urge that the utmost endeavour should be made to solve that problem once for all.

38. Mr. HERSCHEL (United States of America) endorsed the plea of the representative of Italy and pointed out that, according to the rules, all documents should have been distributed, at the latest, six weeks before the opening of the session. In view of the brevity of the session, the late circulation of documents was all the more serious. Delegations certainly needed the views of the experts in their capitals in order to be able to negotiate on important issues.

39. Mr. McPHAIL (Canada) endorsed the comments of the representativesof Italy and the United States of America, and pointed out that the Conference had, at its fifth session, adopted a new decision on that subject in its resolution 114 (V) (para. 10). He asked if the secretariat could inform the Board of the dates on which the documents for the current session had been available in all the official languages.

40. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat would supply that information.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (resumed)

(b) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (TD/B/776 and Add.1 and 2)

41. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the annotated provisional agenda (TD/B/776 and Add.1) and recalled that the draft provisional agenda had been adopted by the Board at its nineteenth session. At that time the Board had authorized its President, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to adjust the provisional agenda in the light of developments. Accordingly, and in consultation with the co-ordinators of the regional groups, the provisional

agenda had been adjusted to incorporate under item 7, "Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies", the sub-headings (a) Commodity trade, (b) Manufactures and semi-manufactures, (c) Shipping and (d) Rationalization of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD. Since there were no matters for consideration under item 8 of the draft provisional agenda, "Other matters in the field of trade and development", that item had been deleted from the provisional agenda and the remaining items renumbered accordingly. He invited the Board to adopt the provisional agenda, which incorporated those changes.

42. The provisional agenda (TD/B/776 and Add.1) was adopted.

43. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the suggestions for the organization of the work of the session contained in document TD/B/776/Add.2. Referring to paragraph 3 of that document, he invited the Board to agree to the establishment of a Sessional Committee of the whole, with the terms of reference set forth in that paragraph, and to allocate to the Committee items 2 and 7 of the agenda just adopted.

44. It was so decided.

45. The PRESIDENT stated that the remaining items on the agenda would be considered by the Board in plenary. Drawing attention to paragraph 6 of document TD/B/776/Add.2, he invited the Board to agree to the establishment of a Contact Group which would, as on previous occasions, consist of 19 members drawn from the various groups of countries (nine from the Group of 77, six from Group B, three from Group D and one member from China), but would remain open to all delegations.

46. It was so decided.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 6)

(a) TREATMENT OF NEW STATES MEMBERS OF UNCTAD FOR PURPOSES OF ELECTIONS

47. The PRESIDENT stated that in part C (paragraph 4) of its resolution 34/92 of 12 December 1979 the General Assembly had decided, in accordance with section I of its resolution 1995 (XIX), to grant full membership in the Conference to Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia. He invited the Board to welcome Namibia to UNCTAD membership. In accordance with established practice, the Board might wish to decide, pending action by the Conference at its sixth session, to associate Namibia with the group of countries listed in part A of the annex to resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

48. It was so decided.

49. Mr. McPHAIL (Canada), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, said that those delegations took note of the decision just announced. He recalled

that the Governments of those delegations had abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution 3/92, for reasons which were well-known. The position of those delegations remained as they had been expressed in the General Assembly at the time of the vote on that resolution in December 1972.

50. Mr. NIZOLLIN (United Nations Council for Namibia) said that the statement which had just been made had been heard in other forums; he did not intend to engage in polemics, but would simply point out that General Assembly resolution 3/92 had been adopted and the question could not be reopened.

(b) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD AND ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES

51. The PRESIDENT stated that at the end of the ninetenth session, the membership of the Board had stood at 121. No further communications had been received and consequently the membership of the Board remained as at the close of the nineteenth session.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 529th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 13 March 1990, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. WYZNER (Hungary)

CONTENTS

Evaluation of the world trade and economic situation and consideration of issues, policies and appropriate measures to facilitate structural changes in the international economy, taking into account the interrelationships of problems in the areas of trade, development, money and finance with a view to attaining the establishment of a new international economic order and bearing in mind the further evolution that may be needed in the rules and principles governing international economic relations and UNCTAD's necessary contribution to a New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 3)

Assessment of the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order (agenda item 4)

Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system (agenda item 5)

(i) Review of implementation and further action that may be required pursuant to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part I

(ii) Detailed features for future operations relating to debt problems of interested developing countries (Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part B) (agenda item 6)

Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies

(d) Rationalization of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD

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Any corrections to the records of the meetings of the Board at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.90-51610

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

EVALUATION OF THE WORLD TRADE AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES, POLICIES AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO FACILITATE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF PROBLEMS IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, MONEY AND FINANCE WITH A VIEW TO ATTAINING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND BEARING IN MIND THE FURTHER EVOLUTION THAT MAY BE NEEDED IN THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND UNCTAD'S NECESSARY CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (agenda item 3)

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 33/198) (agenda item 4)

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PROBLEMS OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM (agenda item 5)

(i) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART A;

(ii) DETAILED FEATURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART B) (agenda item 6)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Committee, in connexion with item 5, that the meeting of governmental experts on interdependence, on which the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was to report to the Board at its twentieth session, had been postponed until 21 May 1980, and in connexion with item 6, that the UNCTAD secretariat had circulated a letter received from the Government of the Netherlands on debt relief measures taken pursuant to part B of Board resolution 165 (S-IX) (TD/B/790).

2. Mr. ALI-SHAKIR (Iraq) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution (TD/L.706) submitted at the fifth session of the Conference by Cuba on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, which suggested a very direct approach to the problem of indebtedness and measures to relieve the debt burden of the developing countries. The draft resolution contained a paragraph relating to the establishment of an International Debt Commission whose members would be eminent public figures with recognized knowledge and experience of debt problems and economic development. The Commission's task would be to examine, at their request, the debt problems of developing countries. To provide for the participation of developing countries in that Commission, his delegation proposed the addition, to follow the first sentence of the paragraph in question, of the words "account being taken, in the composition of the Commission, of geographical distribution and debt volume".

3. Mr. MIRDAD (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation would be ready to take part in the discussion of agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6, but it was difficult for it to comment on certain documents dealing with those items, as they had not yet been issued in Arabic. Furthermore, his delegation had not always participated in the work of the groups and committees concerned with those questions. The question of the

Arabic language was a source of discrimination: even the daily programme was issued in all the languages except Arabic. He therefore requested the secretariat to bear in mind that Arabic was both an official and a working language of UNCTAD.

4. Mr. DADZIE-ASIEY (Ghana) said he had been glad to learn that the Netherlands, although only the Netherlands, had given the last session of the Board token debt relief measures in favour of developing countries. At that session the delegation of France, on behalf of a number of Group B countries, had stated that it shared some of the regrets expressed by the delegations of Ghana and Pakistan. Those two delegations had felt that the dialogue could not be pursued further and that Group B's difficulties were due to lack of political will and perhaps to problems of finance. His delegation hoped that announcements would be made at the present session which would give hope of a willingness on the part of Group B to extend the coverage of their debt relief measures and take more effectively into account the detailed features for future operations. For the moment his delegation would like simply to have some information on what the developed countries had done in that field since the preceding session of the Board.

5. Mr. [illegible] (United Arab Emirates) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Iraq concerning the establishment of an international debt commission. He promised to provide not however confine itself to studying the loans offered by developed countries. It should also examine offers of credit made by developing countries to other developing countries. Some developing countries granted loans and credit on very favourable terms, which it would be interesting to compare with the rates offered by developed countries. A lowering of the interest rate to 2.5 per cent, for instance, such as was referred to in the latter addressed by the Netherlands to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (TD/B/...), could scarcely be regarded as debt relief when many developing countries, including the United Arab Emirates, granted loans at practically interest rates which never exceeded 2 per cent. Some industrialized countries probably could offer loans on still more favourable terms but did not do so.

6. He therefore suggested that a review study should be undertaken which would give a picture of the situation regarding payments and indebtedness. Moreover, debt relief did not lie simply lowering interest rates. It was necessary also to make long-term arrangements for repayment and interest-free periods. Some developing countries, for example, offered loans, which were more in the nature of grants, at a rate below 2 per cent, together with an interest-free period exceeding 10 years and repayment periods of 30 to 40 years.

7. Mr. STEINER (Austria), replying to the Ghanaian delegation's query concerning the action taken by the Group B countries in implementation of Board resolution 161 (S-IX), said that Austria had decided to convert into a grant a development loan made to Ghana and had submitted to the Ghanaian authorities a bilateral agreement to put that decision into effect. The Government was now awaiting a reply from the Ghanaian authorities. Similarly, development loans granted to India had been converted into grants for an up to June 1978. The Austrian parliament had also approved the conversion of a loan to Zambia into a grant and the Austrian Government was actively engaged in negotiations with the Zambian Government with a view to concluding a bilateral agreement to that effect.

9. Mr. BOUTE (France), also replying to the representative of Ghana, said that the French parliament had before it the necessary bills for conversion of the debts to which Board resolution 15 (X-IX) refers. Pending parliamentary approval, the countries concerned had been informed that they could in anticipation refrain from paying the arrears due to France, as if the conversion agreements had already been concluded. France was therefore in fact implementing the Board's resolution.

10. There would likewise be a need for subsequent implementation with regard to the detailed features for future conversions relations to solve problems. France had taken note of the informal agreement [illegible] and was implementing it even before it had been ratified.

11. Lastly, he [illegible] that the question of land-locked countries should be the subject of such haphazard [illegible]. It might have been that agenda item 6 referred only to the implementation of Part [illegible] 1964 (X-IX), while the question of the land-locked countries and the [illegible] difficult problems in the economic world trade and economic situation, with the [illegible] of more or less towards the establishment of the new international [illegible] in which the [illegible] problems of trade, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] items 3, 4 and 5. The Group of Experts [illegible] to consider the question of inter-relations [illegible] on the subject, taking as its starting point [illegible] had been circulated under the symbol TD/B/AC.3.

12. Mr. [illegible] (United [illegible]) thanked the representatives of Austria and France for their [illegible].

[illegible] (continued)

(d) [illegible]

13. Mr. McILVEEN (Secretariat) [illegible] the request of the delegation that the [illegible] which listed [illegible] and which would have distributed on the twentieth [illegible] the date on which the document had [illegible] Geneva office at Geneva and the date of issue in all [illegible]. The latter [illegible] in the case of his selection, for which [illegible] in reply in time for dispatch to [illegible] in the preliminary instructions for the purposes of the session. It [illegible], that some documents could be reproduced without [illegible] from the notes and that about 65 per cent of the [illegible] went in on the Unit's [illegible] Office at Geneva after the [illegible] had been complied with in the case of only 7 documents out of 25.

14. He wished to emphasize [illegible] for that information not in order to embarrass the secretariat but to help the [illegible] and others better to organize their work during the present session. [illegible] difficult for those working in one or other of the languages [illegible] to understand some of the delays encountered in the distribution [illegible] in other languages, the information provided by the [illegible] would be able to take it into account. He [illegible] to the secretariat for the speed and efficiency it had shown in producing the list in question.

The meeting rose at [illegible].

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21 March 1980

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 590th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 19 March 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. HYERGES (Hungary)

CONTENTS

Evolution of the world trade and economic situation and consideration of issues, policies and appropriate measures to facilitate structural changes in the international economy, taking into account the interrelationships of problems in the areas of trade, development, money and finance with a view to attaining the establishment of a new international economic order and bearing in mind the further evolution that may be needed in the rules and principles governing international economic relations and UNCTAD's necessary contribution to a New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 3) (continued)

Assessment of the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order (agenda item 4) (continued)

Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system (agenda item 5) (continued)

(i) Review of implementation and further action that may be required pursuant to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part A

(ii) Detailed features for future operations relating to debt problems of interested developing countries (Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part B) (agenda item 6) (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

EVALUATION OF THE WORLD TRADE AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES, POLICIES AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO FACILITATE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF PROBLEMS IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, MONEY AND FINANCE WITH A VIEW TO ATTAINING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND BEARING IN MIND THE FURTHER EVOLUTION THAT MAY BE NEEDED IN THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND UNCTAD'S NECESSARY CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (agenda item 3) (continued)

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (agenda item 4) (continued)

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PROBLEMS OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM (agenda item 5) (continued)

(i) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART A

(ii) DETAILED FEATURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART B) (agenda item 6) (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that in the absence of a quorum he was regretfully obliged to suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

2. Mr. JOSKO (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Group B countries and Mongolia, said that developments in international economic relations since the nineteenth session of the Board confirmed that the major trends described by the socialist countries in document TD/249 submitted at the fifth session of the Conference were continuing to determine the course of world economic events. The world capitalist economy was clearly undergoing an acute structural crisis various aspects of which had been mentioned by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD at the 528th meeting and were also reflected in document TD/B/703. It was that crisis which was to a large extent responsible for the deepening discrepancies in economic development levels between the developing and the industrially-advanced countries and among the developing countries themselves, and also for the serious situation of the least developed countries. There was, at the same time, a crisis in the world trading system, for elements of risk and uncertainty had been introduced into the normal operation of trade relations by the further increase in protectionist barriers raised by the developed capitalist countries. Furthermore, the existence of discriminatory barriers to trade and the recent introduction of new barriers had impaired the climate of confidence that was so necessary in trade and economic relations, and they were casting a shadow over the future of those relations. Both the present and the foreseeable future situations were therefore viewed by the socialist countries with concern.

3. Those countries had repeatedly drawn attention to the real reasons for the prolonged crisis in the world capitalist economy and they had pointed out the deficiencies in current international economic relations. They had put forward concrete proposals for a restructuring of those relations and had supported the constructive proposals made in that respect by the developing countries. Unfortunately, not one of the goals stated in those proposals had been achieved. The socialist countries believed that UNCTAD, as the principal world economic institution concerned with the examination of trade and development problems and the finding of appropriate solutions, must play an important role in that respect. It should more actively pursue its principal functions as set forth in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) and, given its important future role, it should focus attention more particularly on the elimination of discrimination in trade and control of the activities of multinational enterprises in world trade, including the commodity markets and commodity sectors of the economies of developing countries. UNCTAD should keep trends in world trade and the world economy under constant review and decide how it could best contribute to the emerging situation. Such an approach would not prejudice, but would in fact facilitate, action taken elsewhere.

4. The Group I countries were pleased to note some progress in UNCTAD activities in certain areas, which the Secretary-General had mentioned, but they could not overlook a deterioration in the organization's effectiveness, which was due, they thought, to contradictions in the nature and direction of the solutions sought. They doubted, for example, that the steady proliferation in UNCTAD of groups and gatherings dealing with selected aspects of international economic relations was always productive, particularly if they diluted the Board's responsibilities and diverted its attention from a global analysis of the crucial problems. The delegations for which he was speaking trusted that the Board would succeed at the present session in coming to grips with the real problems and they were ready to join others in an effort to that end.

At the request of several delegations, the meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

5. Mr. ARAUJO (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the substantive items on the Board's present agenda concerned matters which reflected many of the basic concerns of the international community at present and in the longer term. They also reflected the main problems facing the developing countries in international economic relations and also problems of vital concern to the developed countries, having regard, in particular, to the links between their present economic difficulties and the basic structural imbalances in the present international division of labour and international trade, monetary and financial system.

6. It was generally recognized that the International Development Strategy for the First and Second Development Decades had not achieved its main objectives: the gap between developed and developing countries had not been narrowed and the growth process and the achievement of the long-term growth potential of the world economy as a whole were running into difficulties mainly caused by the current distortion of the world economy. The limitations of international economic policy in the context of the present system of international economic relations were evident and the inequality and imbalances inherent in the operation of the international economic system were a serious obstacle to the developing countries' progress.

7. Recognition of the need for fundamental reforms in the world economic structure and in the institutional framework of international economic relations had led the General Assembly in 1974 to adopt the Declaration on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. In that connexion it had become clear that [illegible] in the form of [illegible] or voluntary transfer of resources from developed to developing countries in the existing institutional framework of international economic [illegible] proportion to the system which made such [illegible] necessary. [illegible] in the goals and objectives of the new international economic order (NIEO) [illegible] fundamental restructuring of [illegible] Evaluation of the progress [illegible] the NIEO objectives was one of the main substantive [illegible] the [illegible].

8. The developing countries [illegible] progress made so far towards the [illegible] institutional changes called for in the Programme of Action. [illegible] United Nations system had [illegible] progress towards attainment of the NIEO objectives, but without significant results. Greater political will was needed on the part of the developed countries.

9. The fourth session of the Conference had initiated the start-up of negotiations in several others - the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the Common Fund, the Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, the establishment of acceptable rules and principles to govern restrictive practices - in order to give specific form to some of the [illegible] of the new international economic order. Since then, however, there had been serious [illegible], particularly among the developing countries, with the [illegible] of the negotiations, which was mainly due to the [illegible].

10. One small group of [illegible] countries, however, had not only [illegible] and appreciated the gravity of the situation, but had taken certain positive, mainly quantitative, steps and [illegible] to [illegible]. The Group of 77 appreciated their [illegible], but [illegible], and the fact that it could be extended to [illegible].

11. Nevertheless, the [illegible] provided [illegible] would not in itself suffice: it would [illegible] the [illegible]. Progress in [illegible] important aspects of international economic [illegible] with the intention for the start of a new, more positive [illegible] - [illegible]. The measures complementary to the [illegible] at the fifth session of the Conference and the launching of the new [illegible] Development Strategy offered the international community [illegible] to [illegible] from towards the NIEO targets and [illegible] - [illegible] reality.

12. The international economic [illegible] in the final years of the 1970s. The developing countries, [illegible] were more vulnerable to external factors, had been most affected by the persistent [illegible] with [illegible] structural disorders, unprecedented [illegible], and [illegible] fluctuations and [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] in the development process [illegible] had [illegible]. Only [illegible] the international economic system could not provide [illegible] the developing countries' efforts at [illegible]. The developed countries' [illegible] had further

international economic system in the interest of all groups of countries. Fundamental changes would have to be made in the mechanisms, systems and structures currently governing economic relations between the developing and the developed countries.

17. Three changes were particularly urgent in those already existing areas. First, trade reforms were needed in the framework in which international trade was conducted, as well as an intensification of efforts to restructure commodity markets and trade. Secondly, action should be taken to reform the international monetary system, in the context of the new international economic order. The developing countries continued to suffer from the deficit which was exported to the developing countries, owing to the use of certain currencies as reserve currencies. Reform of the international monetary system must ensure that inflationary pressures are being offset, greater stability is maintained in exchange rates and provision for greater participation by the developing countries in the decision-making of the International Monetary Fund and in monetary matters in general. The relevant international agreements must be implemented without delay, as reflected in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3362 (S-VII), 3363 (S-VII) and decision 242 (XVI) of the Board. Thirdly, the developing countries must strengthen economic relations among themselves in the spirit of collective self-reliance.

18. The Group of 77 attached great importance to the question of the negative effects of the reverse transfer of technology. Strengthening the technological capacity of the developing countries ought to entail a broad multilateral approach by all members of the international community and of the developed countries in particular. The establishment of the new international economic order would help to the elimination and the conclusion of such unfair arrangements.

19. In connexion with international transport, structural changes were needed in order to give the developing countries a greater share in the carriage of goods in international trade, so that their disadvantageous foreign exchange costs could be reduced to a minimum.

20. In the context of restructuring the international economic framework, there were two matters which called for special attention at the present session of the Board. One concerned the establishment in UNCTAD of suitable machinery for ensuring that the developed countries' commitments in the various spheres of trade, money and finance were compatible with the internationally agreed long-term development objectives and the restructuring of international economic relations. The other concerned the new formulation of the rules and principles governing international trade and monetary and financial relations.

21. In that connexion a large number of proposals had been submitted in a number of important sectors, proposals which, if they were adopted by the international community, would result in real progress towards achievement of the new international economic order. There was profound dissatisfaction with the measures taken so far by socialist countries to implement their commitments under resolution 10/3 (S-IX). Despite certain signs given by a few socialist countries in the period since the Board's ninetenth session, there was still a lack of political will on the part of many of the major socialist countries to fulfil their obligations.

22. The developed countries which had granted concessions on a discriminatory basis had violated the spirit of part A of resolution 165 (S-IX) and had ignored the understanding reached on the meaning of the term "the poorer developing countries". Since debt relief measures were indirectly linked with the credibility of the new features of debt reorganization, it was to be hoped that the goodwill of the majority of the developed countries would find full expression vis-à-vis the debtor countries referred to as the poorer countries in resolution 165 (S-IX).

23. The Group of 77 attached great importance to the provision of adequate funds for the implementation of resolution 109 (V) on assistance to the national liberation movements of Namibia, Palestine, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

24. If the concept of international co-operation for development was to regain credibility and the developing countries were not to fall back on themselves and pursue an autarchic form of development, causing a dangerous dislocation of the international economy, the developed countries must show enough political will to start serious negotiations for the establishment of the new international economic order.

25. He welcomed the fact that an important Commission set up to examine the world's economic and social problems, which had just completed its work, shared the concern of the developing countries. He hoped that the developed countries would realise that their own survival was at risk and that it was as vital for them as for the developing world, to avert the stormy future that loomed ahead. He agreed with that Commission's view that the search for solutions was not an act of benevolence but a condition for mutual survival.

26. Mr. SAI (China) said that, looking back over the 1970s, it could be seen that the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism had developed in the international economic field. Pursuant to the principles of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the developing countries, in order to safeguard their sovereignty, develop their national economies and oppose exploitation, plunder and monopoly in the fields of international trade, money and finance, technology, shipping and in other important areas, had made tremendous efforts to end the old international economic relations and to establish a new international economic order. He was sure that those efforts would be further intensified and that new victories would be won in the 1980s.

27. Since the fifth session of the Conference the progress of all the negotiations initiated had been limited and the results hoped for had not been obtained. Key provisions of the draft articles of agreement on the Common Fund were still under discussion, negotiations on individual commodities were, with a few exceptions, at a standstill, many difficulties had been encountered in the negotiations on rules regarding restrictive business practices, and agreement had not yet been reached on the proposed code of conduct on the transfer of technology or the convention on multimodal transport. The debts of the developing countries were mounting continuously, their trade position was further deteriorating, their purchasing power was declining and their exports of manufactures were being adversely affected by protectionism. The inequities and imbalances of the existing international economic relations constituted a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries. As for the developed countries, their economies were stagnant and they were still experiencing serious inflation and unemployment.

28. Thus the old economic structures were not only impairing the economic development of the developing countries, they were also hampering the recovery and development of the world economy. The adoption of practical measures for accelerating the establishment of a new international economic order was therefore not only necessary for the solution of world economic problems but also highly important for the maintenance of world peace and stability.

29. UNCTAD was an important forum for dealing with world economic issues and it should play a more active role in promoting the establishment of the new international economic order. It should complete its negotiations on the Common Fund, the code of conduct on the transfer of technology and the rules regarding restrictive business practices before the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly, and it should also take effective follow-up action on protectionism and on the rationalization of UNCTAD machinery. Complete reform of unequal and unfair economic structures was an important step towards the establishment of the new order, and discussions should therefore be held first on the interdependence of trade, development, and money and finance, so that the policy measures taken by the developed countries could be adapted to the economic development objectives of the developing countries. That was a much-discussed subject on which consensus had not yet been reached. It constituted the first step in bringing about structural change. The negotiations within UNCTAD were closely related to the global negotiations which were to be held in the autumn in New York. The two should be co-ordinated and mutually complementary and should contribute to settling the problems of North-South economic relations.

30. The developing countries needed a peaceful international environment for the smooth development of their national economies. Foreign aggression, expansion, control and occupation must therefore be opposed. At present it was especially necessary to oppose the aggression and intervention of that super-Power which proclaimed itself a "natural ally". His country had always advocated that political and economic relations among all countries should be based on five principles: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. In striving to establish a new international economic order, the developing countries and all countries which stood for justice should unite to oppose monopoly, control and hegemonism and to maintain world peace. His delegation was willing to join with all other delegations in seeking solutions to the present international economic and trade problems.

31. Mr. GLOVER-AKPEY (Ghana) said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by the Co-ordinator of the Group of 77.

32. Referring in particular to agenda item 6, he stressed that there was a sense of great disappointment at the limited scope of the measures taken so far to implement Board resolution 165 (S-IX). Although the obligations assumed in that resolution were one of the most outstanding international commitments in the history of UNCTAD, some major creditor countries had not yet fully expressed their political will to implement the resolution. He emphasized that creditor countries which were granting debt relief on a discriminatory basis were in contempt of the resolution and were reneging on the understanding which had been reached. The goodwill with which part A of the resolution was interpreted and fully implemented in the future would help to convince the Group of 77 that faith in whatever understanding finally emerged on part B would not be misplaced; hence the disappointment felt at the lack of concerted efforts by the developed countries to resolve the problem of the international indebtedness of developing countries. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD

had called attention to the rapidly deteriorating financial situation of the developing countries in the continuing world crisis and document TD/B/783 provided alarming information on the growth rates and current-account deficits of the non-oil-exporting countries and of the least developed countries in particular.

33. There was therefore an urgent need swiftly to increase the flow of official development assistance (ODA). He would like to see the possibility of an immediate increase in ODA disbursements, especially from multilateral institutions, or an increase in programme lending disbursements to needy developing countries, but the Chairman of OECD's Development Assistance Committee had stated that while the DAC aggregate flow was likely to rise somewhat in 1979 and 1980 in absolute terms, that would probably not be enough to affect the ODA/GNP ratio significantly.

34. One measure which would immediately increase the flow of ODA on desirable terms would be full implementation of the retroactive adjustment of terms as envisaged in resolution 165 (S-IX). While his delegation appreciated the action already taken, it felt that the efforts so far could not be considered an adequate response to the agreement included in part A of that resolution. Action must be extended to cover the ODA debt of all the poorer developing countries mentioned in the resolution, without discrimination on any ground. Only such implementation would be consistent with the spirit of the compromise reached at the Board's ninth special session. He therefore called upon creditor countries which had not yet done so to take the necessary steps as rapidly as possible.

35. He proposed that the Board should keep the matter under continuous review, and place it, as a priority item, on the agenda for its twenty-first session. In order to facilitate the Board's deliberations, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should be requested to assess the measures taken by developed countries and submit at that session a report containing his own conclusions, as well as recommendations for further appropriate relief action. Developed countries and appropriate multilateral institutions should be requested to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of that report by providing all required information.

36. Referring to part B of resolution 165 (S-IX) he pointed out that the Group of 77 had already made concrete proposals which were contained, inter alia, in draft resolution TD/L.196 and had more recently been reiterated in a report submitted by the Group of 77 at the eleventh special session of the Board. The Group of 77 attached importance to a satisfactory solution regarding the detailed features for future operations relating to debt problems and the institutional arrangements to oversee them, including an international debt commission. As in the past it was ready to participate, with an open mind and a constructive attitude, in negotiations with other groups.

37. With regard to the situation of the least developed among the developing countries, he noted that some useful work had been done recently by the Intergovernmental Group dealing with that subject and he strongly urged the international community to bring the issues in the Group's report to the attention of the various authorities, so that measures to achieve the proposed objectives might be expedited.

38. Mr. HWAISH (Iraq) said that the solution to the problems of the world economy must be based on a restructuring of the international division of labour. The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order saw international development as a question of interdependence between the developed and the developing countries, and the possibility of providing financing for developing countries therefore did not absolve the developed countries from their other responsibilities. The figures for aid furnished by OECD and OPEC countries in recent years showed that, proportionately, the assistance effort made by the latter group of countries was much higher. He drew attention to the fact that the OPEC countries had proposed the establishment of a fund, financed by all surpluses arising from price increases, for the benefit of the developing countries. Under that proposal all increases in the price of manufactures would accrue to the benefit of the developing countries, and that would open up new horizons for co-operation between the developed and the developing countries.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.